



**California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC)  
Steering Committee Meeting Summary**

March 9, 2012  
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**Participants:**

Steering Committee Members and Alternates

Diana Craig, Chair, US Forest Service (USFS)  
David Graber, National Park Service (NPS)  
Tom Hedt, US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Rick Kearney, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)  
Scott Morrison, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)  
Patrick Rutten, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)  
Michelle Selmon, CA Department of Water Resources (DWR)  
Brad Shaffer, Southwest Climate Alliance (SWCA)  
Wayne Spencer, Conservation Biology Institute (CBI)  
Michael Tansey, US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)  
Kevin Hunting, CA Department of Fish and Game (DFG)  
Grant Ballard, PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO)  
Bob Shaffer, Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV)

CA LCC Staff

Debra Schlafmann, CA LCC Coordinator  
Rebecca Fris, CA LCC Science Coordinator  
Mike Ward, CA LCC Communications Specialist

Consultants

Grace Person, Center for Collaborative Policy

**Objectives**

Provide an update to the Steering Committee on recent activities, as well as to approve the 2012 science priorities and project selection timeline.

## Agenda

- Updates
  - GAO Audit and Site Visit
  - Congressional Visit
  - Strategic Planning Process
  - National LCC Vision Document
- 2012 Funding Priorities and Criteria
- Additional Items

## Action Items

- Debra will send out the draft National LCC Mission and Vision document to the Steering Committee on March 9, 2012.
- Steering Committee members will provide comments on the draft National LCC Mission and Vision document by March 15, 2012.

## Welcome and Introduction

Diana Craig greeted the Steering Committee members and called roll. She also reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives.

## Updates

### US Government Accountability Office (GAO) Audit and Site Visit

Debra Schlafmann provided a brief update on the GAO visit to the CA LCC offices, and shared that the visit went well, including the field trip to a CA LCC funded project site.

### Congressional Visit

Debra also spoke about her trip to Washington D.C. for the National LCC Coordinator's meeting. While there, Debra visited Senators Boxer and Feinstein's offices, and Congresswomen Speier and Matsui's offices to meet with their staff to discuss the CA LCC and answer any questions as some congressional staffers were unfamiliar with the LCCs.

### Strategic Planning Process Update

The CA LCC has conducted two of three webinars to provide resource managers with background information on the CA LCC. Staff has started to scheduled interviews with Steering Committee members. Debra will schedule interviews with 35-40 resource managers next week. The interviews will provide feedback from resource managers about on-the-ground conservation efforts so that the CA LCC can help orient the science to meet managers' needs.

### National LCC Vision document

The National LCC Coordinators created a mission and vision document for the LCCs. Each LCC Steering Committee will have an opportunity to comment on the draft document. Debra will send the Steering Committee the draft mission and vision statement today. Feedback is due March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## National LCC Workshop

Over 300 individuals are registered to attend. Kevin Hunting is plenary speaker, and Grant Ballard will present on a CA LCC funded project. It is an opportunity to meet with various LCC community members.

## **2012 Funding Priorities and Criteria**

### Discussion of Evaluation Criteria

Rebecca Fris reviewed the Science Team priorities and criteria recommendations. Rebecca and other the CSC science coordinators will attend a meeting to discuss the science priorities of the neighboring LCCs. The recommendations memo identified the priorities that the team developed, with the intent to match science research with manager needs. The criteria will be used to evaluate and rank the preproposals, request full proposals, and ultimately to select projects to fund.

Comments and suggestions from the Steering Committee members include:

- There was a question about how projects will be scored.
  - The preproposal phase will use a high, medium, low numeric format to rank the projects.
  - Full proposals will use a 1-5 ranking system to create scoring sheets. The review team will have an in-person meeting to discuss the top high scoring projects to develop a recommendation list of projects to fund. The review team will be the Science Team. Reviewers will not evaluate their own project proposal.
- There was a request to add “capacity” as an explicit evaluation criteria to help provide an initial screen of the preproposal projects.
- It was recommended to add the text, “encourage existing collaborations” to the criteria description.
- It was proposed to remove “scope” from the criteria title, and to rephrase the other criteria as “LCC-wide” or “transferable,” to identify whether the project results can be exported to other geographic areas. The final recommendation was to change criteria #3 to include “integrative to nature,” and #6 to be “transferable.”

**The steering committee members approved the science priorities and project evaluation criteria with the above recommended changes.**

### Project Selection Process Timeline

The selection of projects is a two-phased process. The first phase is where applicants submit possible projects as preproposals for consideration to begin March 12<sup>th</sup>, with Rebecca sending the preproposal announcement to the science community via the CA LCC Alliance Listserv and through Steering Committee members. The deadline for preproposals is March 26<sup>th</sup>. In the second half of April, the Science Team will review and select project proposals for the Steering Committee to approve to move to the second phase. The second phase begins in May with an invitation to selected projects to submit a full project proposal. The Science Team will review

the full proposals in the second half of May to create a recommendation list of projects to fund. The Steering Committee will review and make a final determination of the projects to receive funding at the end of May. Projects will go into contract in June.

The following are comments and questions about the selection process:

- A question came up about whether selected projects this year will be selected to represent a range of locations or habitat types. Last year, the focus was for projects from around the state. Even though the Science Team seeks to have a diverse range of projects, there is no specific selection guideline that states the CA LCC will select a project to represent each region of the landscape.

**The Steering Committee members approved the proposed project selection process timeline.**

#### Next Steps

- There will be a Steering Committee meeting at the end of April, and another at the end of May to proceed with the science project selection process.
  - Debra will send out Doodle polls for the dates of the April and May meetings.

#### **Additional Items**

- Congresswoman Speier's will host a forum in the South Bay to facilitate information exchange on the impacts of climate change, and requested that the CA LCC assist by bringing scientists to the meeting.
- There are upcoming webinar presentations about Steering Committee members' work and projects. The first presentation will be at the next Steering Committee meeting in April.
  - Debra requested that the Steering Committee share ideas for future webinar presentations.
- Steering Committee member Tom Hedt will host a webinar on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and Steering Committee members are welcome to attend.
- A Steering Committee member was contacted by the Congressional Natural Resources Subcommittee, and was tasked to write a report on collaboration and regional conservation efforts. He will provide his testimony in May.
- There was a question regarding media coverage of landscape conservation efforts, specifically if there were any media articles in the newspapers about the LCC process, and whether Steering Committee members should facilitate efforts to raise media awareness.
  - The Restoration Center frequently works with the media, and it may be advantageous to invite the Bay Area media markets to attend field trips to project sites.
  - It was proposed that a few key people can work on such a task after the project selection process.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.