



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

June 11, 2012
9:00 am – 10:15 am

Participants:

Steering Committee Members and Alternates

Diana Craig, Chair, US Forest Service (USFS)
Ellie Cohen, Vice-Chair, PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO)
Michelle Denning, US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
Natalie Gates, National Park Service (NPS)
Armand Gonzales, CA Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
David Graber, NPS
Rick Kearney, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
Nadine Peterson, State Coastal Conservancy (SCC)
Patrick Rutten, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Michelle Selmon, CA Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Bob Shaffer, Joint Venture representative
Brad Shaffer, Southwest Climate Science Alliance (SWCSA)
Wayne Spencer, Conservation Biology Institute (CBI)
Tom Suchanek, US Geological Survey (USGS)

CA LCC Staff

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

Consultants

Dave Ceppos, Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP)
Grace Person, CCP

Objectives

The purpose of the meeting is to review and approve the list of CA LCC 2012 Science Projects to fund, and to approve the proposal for the National Marine Area definition for LCCs.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Business and Updates
 - Accept Notes from Past Meetings

- Strategic Planning Process, Phase II
- Partner Updates
- Review Team Recommendations for Full Proposals
 - **ACTION:** Approve the List of Proposals for Funding
 - Next Steps
- Review Proposal for National Marine Areas for the LCCs
 - **ACTION:** Approve the Marine Areas definition for LCCs
- July 12th In-Person Meeting Preparation

Action Items

- Rebecca will send information to the Steering Committee members about the Southwest Science Center funded projects as soon as it is available.
- Debra will provide the final funding amount to the Steering Committee members as soon as it is available.
- Rebecca will send a formal press release of the science projects selected for funding the week of June 11th.
- Debra will contact the Bureau of Land Management regarding the LCC proposal for National Marine Areas.
- Debra will inform the National LCC leadership team of the CA LCC's approval of the LCC Marine Areas definition.

Welcome

Diana Craig welcomed the Steering Committee members to the meeting and called roll. She then reviewed the meeting agenda.

Business and Updates

Accept Notes from Past Meetings

There was a request to send the recent Steering Committee meeting notes, or a link to the notes on the CA LCC website, with the reminder and agenda for future meetings. The group decided to defer the decision to accept the April 20th Steering Committee meeting notes until the next Steering Committee meeting.

Strategic Planning Process – Phase II

Debra provided an update on the Phase II interview process, and reported that the Phase II Report of the interview findings is in development. The Steering Committee will receive the Phase II Report prior to the next in-person meeting. The Strategic Planning Subcommittee will meet after the next Steering Committee meeting in July.

Partner Updates

Rebecca shared that she, Debra and Rick will attend the Southwest Climate Science Center (SWCSC) sessions next week. Also, that the SWCSC has finished its science project selection process and that some of the selected projects for funding include the Flint's downscaling proposal which includes putting the data on the CA Climate Commons, and John Takekawa's proposal to do additional sea level rise modeling along the coast of CA. Rebecca will send

information about the selected projects to the Steering Committee members as soon as it is available. Additionally, she informed the group that the SWCSC is in the process of hiring a new director.

Science Review Team Recommendations for Full Proposals

Discussion of Science Proposal Recommendations for Funding

Rebecca explained the Science Review Team's process to select science projects to recommend for CA LCC funding. The reviewers' scores were averaged, and at an in-person meeting, the Science Review Team discussed the proposals and their rankings by the highest average score. Of the 30 proposals that the CA LCC received, the Science Review Team selected eight projects for funding. Of the eight projects recommended, six are continuing projects and two are new projects.

A couple of Steering Committee members expressed concern that there were not enough Southern California projects selected for funding. Rebecca shared that the Science Review Team assessed projects by geographic regions in addition to the reviewer scores. Scope and transferability is one of the review criteria. Many Steering Committee members expressed hope in increasing CA LCC project funding in Southern California, and one member suggested that the CA LCC work with projects to improve technical quality. Debra and Rebecca also point out that the Strategic Planning process is an opportunity to develop connections and support conservation efforts in Southern California. They also shared that they plan to conduct advance outreach to potential applicants in Southern California to help them with project development.

Additionally, there was a suggestion to provide the principals of proposals not selected with feedback on how to improve their applications for future proposals. Rebecca informed the group that comments for each of the 30 projects were collected as part of the Science Review Team's meeting, and that she would provide that information to the project principals on request. She noted she is usually contacted by a number of applicants and shares additional information with them on the review of their proposal.

The Steering Committee members also approved the six alternate projects for future funding that may come available through the CA LCC or other sources. The list of alternate projects is ranked in order of priority for funding.

Rebecca informed the Steering Committee that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has not yet provided a final amount for the CA LCC to disperse to selected projects, but that she expects to have that information soon. Debra said she will provide the Steering Committee members with the final funding amount from the FWS as soon as it becomes available.

Rebecca explained that she will notify the selected and the non-selected projects immediately, and in the formal notification messages, she will include an invitation to contact her with questions or requests for feedback. She will also send out a formal press release with a list of the projects selected next week.

The Steering Committee members approved the recommended list of the eight projects for funding, and the list of six alternate projects as additional funding becomes available.

Next Steps

Many of the Steering Committee members expressed interest in working to find financial support for the alternate projects. Ellie Cohen shared that she will work with interested Steering Committee members to locate funding for the alternate projects. One Steering Committee member offered to potentially assist with the coordination of funding for the Sink or Swim proposal as this project may be a priority for the Bay Area.

Review proposal for National Marine Areas for the LCCs

Discussion

Debra explained that the proposal is an effort by the National LCC office to clarify and coordinate the LCCs' marine area conservation efforts. The proposal enables the LCCs to modify their boundaries to encompass offshore islands and lands if necessary. If the Steering Committees of the LCCs approve the proposal, then the National LCC office will incorporate the proposal language and reflect this on the national boundary map. There was a suggestion that Debra contact the Bureau of Land Management regarding the proposal of boundary modification to see if they have any comments on this proposal. CDFG and PRBO supports the proposal. Debra reiterated that the proposal is very flexible, and will not limit the CA LCCs' ability to support and develop conservation efforts in marine areas.

The Steering Committee approved the National Marine Areas for the LCCs proposal.

Debra will inform the National LCC leadership team of the CA LCC's approval of the proposal.

July 12th In-Person Meeting Preparation

Debra shared that the next in-person Steering Committee meeting will occur on July 12th, and the tentative location is the Sierra Health Foundation's offices in Sacramento. The purpose of the meeting is to make progress on a strategic vision for the LCC and to develop instructions for the Strategic Planning Subcommittee so they can draft a strategic plan. She also shared that Will Murray will facilitate the meeting to help the group develop guidance and vision statements for the CA LCC.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.