

**California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC)
Interim Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting Notes**

January 13, 2011, 3:00 pm

Participants in attendance:

Mike Allen, University of CA, Riverside
Grant Ballard, PRBO Conservation Science
Lora Barrett, Center for Collaborative Policy
Dave Busch, USGS, interim Southwest Climate Science Center director
Ellie Cohen, PRBO Conservation Science
Diana Craig, USFS
Felicia Federico, UCLA La Kretz Center
Rebecca Fris, CA LCC
Armand Gonzales, CA Department of Fish and Game
Beth Hunning, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Rick Kearney, USFWS
Brady Mattsson, USGS, CA LCC
Will Murray, Will Murray Co., facilitator for workshops
Ray Sauvajot, NPS
Debra Schlafmann, CA LCC
Bob Shaffer, Central Valley Joint Venture
Michelle Selmon, CA Department of Water Resources
Karl Stein, BLM
Tom Suchanek, USGS

Tom Suchanek announced that starting in January, 2011, Brady Mattsson will be joining the CA LCC as a Landscape Ecologist. He will be co-located in the CA LCC office at Sacramento State University. Over the next couple months he'll be transitioning and teaching workshops so he won't be here in person until March. He is scheduled to attend both southern California workshops.

Debra Schlafmann introduced Will Murray who will be facilitating both southern California workshops. He facilitated the CA LCC workshop in March 2010.

Debra also introduced Felicia Federico, Executive Director of the La Kretz Center at the University of California Los Angeles. The La Kretz center, part of the Southwest Climate Science Center, is co-hosting the Los Angeles workshop.

Debra announced that Ted Meyers has completed his contract with National Marine Fisheries and will be returning to retirement in Idaho. This leaves an opening on the Interim Steering Committee. Rick described a recent conference where he addressed the coastal managers for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He described that there is a wide range of programs which have connections with the work of

the CA LCC. He asked the group to let him know if anyone can think of a particular person who would be a good candidate for the Steering Committee in place of Ted.

Debra reviewed the meeting agenda. She thanked ISC members for the help they have given in preparing for the upcoming southern California workshops. Rebecca Fris added that some ISC members who will be attending one or more of the workshops may be asked to assist in either facilitating a break-out session or in note-taking during the break-outs. Will Murray has agreed to help train the facilitators/note-takers to prepare them for their role at the conference.

Workshop Update

Debra listed the following ISC members who are scheduled to attend either of the workshops; Michelle Selmon, Diana Craig, Karl Stein, Tom Suchanek, Rick Kearney, Bob Shaffer, Grant Ballard (for Ellie), Mike Allen, Ray Sauvajot, Jeff McCleary, and Dave Graber.

Debra briefly reviewed each of the two workshop agendas. Breakouts, she said, should produce two to three key ideas for each of the topics. Rebecca mentioned that additional time will be put into preparing for the breakouts.

2011 Priorities and Selection Process

Rebecca asked the participants to refer to the memo, 2011 Project Priorities and Selection Process (Attachment A), which was sent to ISC members on January 12, 2011. Following approval from the ISC members, she plans to send out a request for pre-proposals. Rebecca complimented the Science Subcommittee on their work in developing the recommendations. The Science Subcommittee came up with two main topics for the focus of this year's project funding. She reviewed the topics and associated subpoints, then asked the ISC for the okay to move forward with those priorities. She also presented a list of criteria by which projects will be evaluated. Work for the future is to develop a long-term science plan.

Beth Hunning asked if it was alright to share this document with her management board at this time. Debra and Rebecca said it was open to distribution following the approval of the ISC.

Hearing no objections, Rebecca said she will move forward with the priorities as listed in her memo.

Timeline for Proposal Process and Review

Rebecca described that following the workshops and final review by the Science Committee a call for pre-proposals will be released. A target date for that announcement is February 1st. A project selection committee will look at the pre-proposal submissions, and then ask a subset of those for full proposals. One objective is to distribute funds

throughout the LCC geographical area. Funding recommendations will be brought to the full Steering Committee for approval.

Armand asked how the selection team will be formed. Rebecca replied that it will be formed from a cross-section of partners on the Steering Committee. The current Science Subcommittee will fill the role of project selection team and the group will be re-evaluated after the workshops to ensure broad representation. Some form of conflict of interest rules will also be in place to ensure the selection process is fair.

Dave Busch asked if the Steering Committee members can distribute Rebecca's proposal. Rebecca replied yes. As far as distribution of the call for pre-proposals, she intends to distribute it to the members of the LCC, participants in the workshops and have it posted on the website. She encouraged the group to be thinking of other sources of funds that may be relevant for this funding. She expects that some pre-proposal submissions that perhaps do not fit well with the LCC project criteria could be funded through LCC partners and/or LCC partner programs.

Ellie Cohen mentioned that she thinks the subcommittee has done a fantastic job and that she hopes they will share these criteria with other LCCs. Rebecca mentioned that LCC Science Coordinators nationwide have begun to meet regularly and she promised to share this information with them.

Next Steps

Debra described the southern California workshops as being the final launch to forming the full LCC. Once the full LCC is formed we will need to define its priorities and decide how it wants to be structured and organized. Finally, we will need to define a strategic plan. This work will be started soon after the southern California workshops.

Rick asked how outreach was made to Native American Tribes and to residents of Mexico. Debra said that a workshop invitation was sent to all federally recognized tribes within the CA LCC. Approximately sixty invitations were sent out to these constituents. Invitations were also sent to a handful of partners from Mexico. Additional outreach will occur after the workshops to identify and meet with those partners.

Tom Suchanek asked to hear more about the timeline for the pre-proposals and full proposals. Rebecca referred to the timeline listed in the 2011 Project Priorities and Selection Process memo. She intends to send out guidance for pre-proposals on February 1st with a quick turnaround for the 1-2 page pre-proposals. From there the expectation is to work through the project selection process as quickly as possible to get the funding out to partners. Projects should be under contract by June, 2011.

Closing

Debra thanked the participants for their time and said she looked forward to seeing those who will be attending the southern California workshops.



Attachment A

Date: January 12, 2011
To: CA LCC Interim Steering Committee (ISC)
From: Rebecca Fris, Science Coordinator
Subject: 2011 Project Priorities and Selection Process
Action: Approval of 2011 Priorities and Criteria

Priority Development

USFWS has approximately \$850,000 in project funding for 2011. I have convened and been meeting with the CA LCC Science Subcommittee over the last several months to identify priorities for this funding. Members of the Science Subcommittee are identified in Exhibit A.

We began discussions from the “areas of emphasis” used in last year’s process to identify the priorities for this year. Our goal was to agree upon a smaller number of priorities and also to be very specific on the criteria by which project proposals will be evaluated. The recommendations from the Science Subcommittee on priorities and criteria are listed below. **We would like approval from the ISC to move forward with these priorities and criteria.** Discussions will continue on the specifics of scoring for each criterion (defining what constitutes a score of 5 that is the highest score versus what constitutes a score of 1 which is the lowest score) and other details of the selection process. Pre-proposal guidance is also currently under review by the Science Subcommittee.

Subcommittee recommendations for 2011 CA LCC Priorities

Projects should support decision-making and conservation delivery for natural resource managers while accounting for sources of uncertainty about system dynamics in a changing environment. Projects should address at least one of the following priority issues:

Ecosystem Response/Species and Habitat Information

- Developing relevant downscaled models clearly addressing resource manager needs and habitat/organism responses to projected change under alternative climate/economic/planning scenarios
- Identifying future biodiversity hotspots and connectivity needs
- Better understanding of demographic responses to climate change, including dispersal, survival, and productivity (e.g. why hotspots are hot)
- Modeling the frequency, intensity, and impacts of extreme climate-driven events (e.g. sea level rise, floods, wildfires, and droughts)

Decision Support for Climate Adaptation

- Future scenario planning at landscape and ecoregional scales
- Ecosystem impacts of adaptive land-use change – avoiding conflicts between human infrastructure changes and biodiversity/conservation
- Developing open access information retrieval (i.e. metadata commons) systems to inform managers, and decision-support systems/tools that help managers allocate limited resources on prioritization, scenario evaluation and adaptive management.
- Development/standardization of metrics of change, measurement protocols, indicator species, performance measures to assess resiliency
- Monitoring in the context of fully implemented adaptive management frameworks
- Long term monitoring programs designed to establish ecological baselines and trends, and track climate (or adaptation to climate change) effects

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Applicability to Conservation and Adaptation Decisions-** Highly likely to aid conservation and adaptation decisions. Policy makers or other decision makers are clearly asking for support.
2. **Ecological or Ecosystem Response to System/Climate Change** - Will improve understanding or help address crucial sources of uncertainty about how species, ecosystems, habitats, and/or landscapes respond to projected change under alternative scenarios.
3. **Breadth of Understanding** - Project is integrative – multi taxa, crosses trophic levels, includes physical and biological data, enables comprehensive understanding, considers several major climate system components, e.g.: water, carbon.
4. **Accessibility** – Products and information generated will be available and easy to use preferably online, designed for target audience access/understanding.
5. **Scope/Transferability** - LCC-wide or region-specific with projected outcomes and/or products that are clearly transferable to other LCCs.
6. **Partnerships/Leveraging** - Multi-partner project –includes scientists, habitat managers, and/or policy makers from multiple organizations (e.g., conservation and other NGOs, local governments, and state and federal agencies). Builds new collaborations and has secured matching funds and/or in-kind support from multiple partners.

7. **Timeliness and Urgency** - Information is urgently needed because of high risk or to avoid severe impact. Products will inform urgent actions and provide important information for setting up the CA LCC for long term success.

Continuing CA LCC projects will also be evaluated by the following additional criteria.

1. **Continued Relevance** - The project addresses one or more of the 2011 priorities.
2. **Project Performance** - The project deliverables were received in a timely manner and were high quality.
3. **Readiness** - The project is ready for additional funds.

This information will be discussed at the January 25, 26 workshops. Any feedback will be incorporated and then soon thereafter, a request for pre-proposals will be sent to CA LCC partners, workshop participants and posted on the CA LCC website (CaliforniaLCC.org). Beyond this process, I will be talking at the workshops about developing a longer term science plan. The breakout sessions at the workshops will be focused on getting feedback and priorities related to longer term science needs for the CA LCC.

Selection Process

This year's project selection process will have two phases. A 1-2 page pre-proposal will be requested and evaluated against the priorities and criteria. A project selection committee will identify the pre-proposals that best meet the priorities and criteria and request full proposals. The project selection committee will then score and evaluate full proposals to develop a funding recommendation to the ISC.

Tentative Schedule for 2011 Project Selection

February 1-	Send out guidance for pre-proposals
February 15-	Pre-proposals due
By end of Feb-	Evaluate pre-proposals
Early March-	Request for full Proposals
Early April-	Proposals due
By mid-April	Proposals evaluated/Recommendation developed
Late April-	Recommendations to Steering Committee
May/June-	Projects under contract

Exhibit A

CA LCC Science Subcommittee Members

Mike Allen	University of CA, Riverside
Grant Ballard	PRBO Conservation Science
Armand Gonzales	CA Dept. of Fish and Game
David Graber	National Park Service
Jane L Hayes	US Forest Service
Catherine Hickey	PRBO Conservation Science, participating on behalf of the Central Valley Joint Venture
Richard F Kearney	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Ted Meyers	National Marine Fisheries Service
Michelle Selmon	CA Dept. of Water Resources
Christina Sloop	Science Coordinator, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Tom Suchanek	USGS