



## Steering Committee Meeting Notes

March 4, 2015

### **Attendees**

#### **Steering Committee Members**

Ellie Cohen – Chair, Point Blue Conservation Science

Michelle Selmon – Vice Chair, CA Dept. of Water Resources

Sarah Allen – National Park Service

Michelle Denning – Bureau of Reclamation

Mike Dunphy – Central Valley Joint Venture

Caroline Enquist – Southwest Climate Science Center

Tom Hedt – Natural Resource Conservation Service

Chrissy Howell – US Forest Service

Kevin Hunting – CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Rodd Kelsey – The Nature Conservancy

Mark Kramer – The Nature Conservancy

Robert Mesta – Sonoran Joint Venture

Keith Miles – US Geological Survey

Pat Rutten – National Marine Fisheries Service

Wayne Spencer – Conservation Biology Institute

Laura Valoppi – US Geological Survey

Polly Wheeler – US Fish & Wildlife Service

#### **CA LCC Staff**

Debra Schlafmann - Coordinator

Rebecca Fris – Science Coordinator

Andrea Graffis – Communication Coordinator

Deanne DiPietro – Data Manager

Zhahai Stewart - Data Manager

Karen Thorne – Science Advisor, USGS

Amber Pairis – CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

### **Meeting Objectives**

- Address outstanding action items from the January meeting
- Discuss and approve large workshop for 2015
- Approve draft RFP on hydrologic processes
- Approve TEK/Tribal recommendations

- Introduce partnership with CA DFW

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Keith introduced Laura Valoppi, who is acting as his alternate on the Steering Committee. Laura is Lead Scientist for the San Francisco Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and Research Coordinator for the project.

## **Outstanding items from January meeting**

- Deb reviewed the 2015 Funding & Activities.
- A Scenario Planning workshop was held on 3/3 for the Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project and was successful. A summary will be distributed.

## **Large Workshop for 2015 Update**

- We have an opportunity to partner with SW CSC this fall for a 2 day Climate Summit. Staff recommends partnering with SW CSC to fulfill the Annual Affiliate Workshop that was postponed from April to this fall.
- Details for Climate Summit:
  - Rebecca and Deb are on the Planning Team the SW CSC has gathered for this.
  - Tentative date of October 27-28 at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento
  - Capacity of the event is 500 people
  - Mark Schwartz, UC Davis professor, is the planning coordinator
  - Would like CA LCC to lead some sessions possibly on stakeholder needs and science translation. The Climate Hubs will be partnering in a similar manner and focusing on forestry and agriculture.
  - Initial plan is for 5 concurrent sessions, several separate sessions for special topics. Shorter talks, panels, facilitated audience participation.
  - Audience is scientists and managers and building partnerships is the objective. This includes the water community and built environment decision makers. Not just a science conference—we want scientists who are good communicators to provide the latest info and then move quickly to material relevant to managers. New insights, emerging science, and what it means for conservation and management
  - Looking at three plenaries: emerging science, impacts, and management challenges. Thinking the second day would be management oriented, highlighting the recent successes with case studies.

**Approved:** Motion was approved to partner with CS CSC on the Climate Summit.

**ACTION:** Materials will be sent out in the next few days.

## **SW CSC Drought Initiative**

- A SW CSC Drought Initiative focused on the entire SW CSC geography is ramping up quickly and has a newly formed technical committee. This is the focus of a 3/10/15 meeting at UC Davis. Rebecca will be attending.

**ACTION:** Keith Miles will send out the info he received on the initial meeting. Mark Schwartz can be contacted for further info.

## **Regional Workshops and Climate Smart Training**

- Deb let the SC know about one-day Climate-Smart training that the National Conservation Training Center is developing based on input Deb provided them from the our Steering Committee. We will likely pilot the initial meetings here in California in the fall once the workshops are developed.
- We are also still looking to host and partner on smaller regional workshops in different parts of the LCC as well.

**ACTION:** Steering Committee members to send input on smaller regional workshops to Deb.

## **Draft RFP for hydrologic processes**

- Rebecca reviewed the decisions from last meeting, which included the recommendation to focus on hydrologic regimes in a focused RFP. A Draft RFP was sent to the Science Management Team and their feedback was incorporated. A draft solicitation is ready for final approval.
- In the description about what should be required, it doesn't specifically call out Action Two under the Ecosystem Process Objective in the Science-Management Framework. Steering Committee recommends that the language be included in the RFP.
- Pat from NOAA: Pleased to see the hydrologic focus, volunteered to be on review team. NOAA might have funds for similar work. There is a National call coming for \$5 million for Resiliency, this is habitat focused. Referred to Kevin Hunting – the state Coastal Conservancy is also coming out with a call for proposals that is coastal-focused. DWR/Prop 1 may also be aligned with upcoming grant opportunities.

**Approved:** RFP for distribution. It will go out next week.

**ACTION:** Include Action two from the Ecosystem Process objective in the Science-Management Framework in the RFP. Distribute next week.

## **Tribal/TEK Team recommendations**

- Michelle reviewed the TEK Recommendations. Michelle will continue to chair the group; the team is still looking for a SC representative from the tribal community.
- Next Steps include developing a RFP for approval for 2016, an in-person TEK/Tribal Team meeting in 2015, and a Tribal Climate Adaptation workshop.

- The team asked for support for a facilitator for preparing for the training and in-person meeting
- Estimated need is \$35k for the in-person meeting, adaptation workshop, and the facilitator.
- National funding opportunity - \$8 million will become available from DOI through Bureau of Indian Affairs for federally recognized Tribes. Chris Bujalski is a BIA liaison on our TEK/tribal team that can be a contact for that RFP. It was suggested that we see if non-federally recognized tribes could also be eligible.

**Approved:** Tribal/TEK recommendations.

### **Partnership with California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

- Amber Pairis with California Department of Fish and Wildlife received a Switzer grant to support strengthening existing partnerships in Southern California to bring resource managers and scientists together. CA LCC had year-end funding to match the Switzer grant.
- Amber described the San Diego Climate Science Alliance that is supporting and promoting climate-smart conservation actions and partnerships across the South Coast region and Northern Baja.
- Question about this operating in the Channel Islands. There are no hard boundaries of the LCC. There is a lot of interest in the islands. We have been discussing the southern boundary especially with Mexico partners.
- Question about giving money to launch other new initiatives within our geography.
  - At this current funding level it will be difficult. This situation was unique because we had additional money come in at the end of the year. If the LCCs receive an increase in funding, we could revisit it. This was a one-time opportunity. Amber's funding from the grant, CDFW and the LCC will last over 3 years.

### **President's budget**

- Deb explained that the President's budget has recommended an increase for LCCs nationally. About a \$15 million increase which is significant because there has not been an increase for LCCs for several years.
- There is much work to be done given the budget needs to be approved by both the House and Senate.
- Ellie: If anyone is a non-federal member and can help educate members of Congress, please let Ellie know and she will provide information for representatives. We should be educating them about LCCs successes and how we are leveraging funds.

### **National Council Meeting March 26th**

- Purpose of the LCC Council is to be advocates and take on cross-LCC issues like policy, working with other federal and state agencies. They met for the first time last year and are still working on their charter and getting organized. This next meeting in late March will emphasize the partner contributions, and benefit and what they're getting out of it. Will be state, NOAA, Forest Service people in attendance. Deb plans on attending.

**ACTION:** Deb will send the LCC Council meeting agenda when it is finalized.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be in Early June.