



Steering Committee Meeting
December 17, 2014

Attendees

Ellie Cohen – Chair, Point Blue Conservation Science
Michelle Selmon – Vice Chair, CA Dept. of Water Resources

Ken Berg – Advisor, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Dave Busch - USGS
Diana Craig – US Forest Service
Mike Dunphy – Central Valley Joint Venture
Chrissy Howell – US Forest Service
Kevin Hunting – CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Robert Mesta – Sonoran Joint Venture
Mariam Morrill – Bureau of Land Management
Nadine Peterson – CA State Coastal Conservancy
Kevin Schaffer – CA Fish Passage Forum
Wayne Spencer – Conservation Biology Institute
Pat Rutten – NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service
Polly Wheeler – US Fish & Wildlife Service

CA LCC Staff

Deb Schlafmann - Coordinator
Rebecca Fris – Science Coordinator
Karen Thorne – Science Advisor, USGS
Deanne DiPietro – Data Manager
Andrea Graffis – Communication Coordinator

Meeting Objectives

- Review of 2014 Commitments
- Quick Summary of 2014 Accomplishments
- Update on Landscape Conservation Workshop
- Preparation for January Meeting

Changes in Steering Committee Membership

New members to the Steering Committee include

- Mike Dunphy – Coordinator, Central Valley Joint Venture. Mike filled Bob Shaffer’s position.
- Polly Wheeler – Assistant Regional Director for Refuges, US Fish & Wildlife Service. Polly represents a change in the USFWS Steering Committee position. This place was previously filled by the Science Applications Assistant Regional Director.
- Ken Berg – Assistant Regional Director for Science Applications, US Fish & Wildlife Service. Ken now holds the US Fish & Wildlife Service position previously held by Rick Kearny. Ken will serve in an advisory position to the Steering Committee and will not be a voting member.

See [Changes in Membership Memo](#) for further details on the change in US Fish & Wildlife Service representation.

National LCC Network Updates

The LCC Network released a [Strategic Plan](#) and Science Plan over the last few month. A LCC Network Communication Plan began development in October 2014.

We will discuss these documents in a bit more detail during the January in person Steering Committee meeting.

National Academy of Sciences Review of LCCs

Purpose of Review

The National Academy of Sciences is conducting a review of the LCC Network over the next year. The goals of the review are to:

- Evaluate the scientific merit of the LCC program and its goals
- Compare the stated purpose and goals of the LCC with other similar programs
- Compare the types of projects, activities, and collaborations supported by LCCs and related programs
- Examine the evaluation process for the LCC program
- Assess the impacts of the LCC program at various scales

Reference the [NAS Review Statement of Work](#) for further details.

What Prompted the Review

The House of Representatives have been critical of LCCs. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted a review on how we are procuring funds and the administration of contracts.

The audit lead to conclusion LCCs need to improve procurement procedures and House of Representatives asked for a NAS review.

What the Review Means for the CA LCC Steering Committee

The review will be a closed door process. The NAS review team may be coming to California early next year and may interview Steering Committee members.

Action: Please let CA LCC staff know if you are contacted by a member of the NAS review team.

Deanne: LCC Data Managers are updating the LCC Network project catalog. This can be seen at lccprojects.org and the NAS will use it in the review. It will be complete in January.

Review of 2014 Commitments and Accomplishments

Commitment to Climate-Smart Conservation

All 2014 CA LCC projects move partners through the steps of the climate-smart conservation process. These steps include:

1. Define goals and identify priorities
2. Assess vulnerability to climate change
3. Identify adaptation strategies and actions
4. Implement adaptation options
5. Monitor, review, and revise results

2014 CA LCC Accomplishments

- **Accomplishment #1:** Four place-based projects:
 - *Implementing Climate-Smart Restoration along California's Central Coast*
 - Partners: Point Blue Conservation Science, The Nature Conservancy, and Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training
 - *Incorporating Climate-Smart Adaptive Strategies into Wetlands Recovery in Coastal Southern California*
 - Partners: Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, California Coastal Conservancy, and Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
 - *North-Central California Coast and Ocean Climate-Smart Adaptation Project*
 - Partners: Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Point Blue Conservation Science, EcoAdapt, and National Park Service
 - *Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning for National Forest Lands in Southern California*
 - US Forest Service and EcoAdapt

- **Accomplishment #2:** Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project
 - The goal of this project is to identify actions that will maximize the adaptive capacity of priority species, habitat, and ecosystems to support an ecologically connected Central Valley landscape.
 - The kick-off meeting for this project was held on October 7, 2014.
 - The next workshop will identify priority resources and will be held on March 3, 2015.

- **Accomplishment #3:** Affiliate Workshop: “Landscape Conservation Workshop”
- **Accomplishment #4:** 32 workshops or trainings through 2013 science delivery projects
- **Accomplishment #5:** Hosting two Climate-Smart Conservation trainings
- **Accomplishment #6:** Hosting a TEK training

Update on Landscape Conservation Workshop

Purpose

The purpose of the workshop is to bring scientists and managers together to discuss climate-smart landscape conservation and share results and lessons learned from across California. Participants will focus on adapting natural resources management practices to consider a changing climate. Activities will engage participants in building collaborative partnerships for resilient California landscapes.

Logistics

The workshop will be held on **April 21-22, 2015 at the UC Davis Conference Center**. The workshop participant capacity is 150-200 people. A hotel block has been reserved nearby and we have the entire conference center reserved.

Invitations will be sent to listserv/broad audience and not an invite only event. People will be asked for a small registration fee.

A planning team of Steering Committee and Communication Team members has been hard at work on this for the past 4 months.

The agenda will contain **plenary speakers, symposium sessions, posters, a world café, tools café, and trainings**. We need to identify about 15 session chairs and 3-4 plenary speakers.

Day one will focus on the latest science, big picture concepts, and changing ecosystem processes. **Day two** will focus on applied science, case studies, trainings, and tools.

Topic Areas for the Workshop Sessions

- **Developing Climate-Smart Conservation Practices:**
 - Building effective partnerships
 - Vulnerability Assessments
 - Reviewing and Revising Conservation Goals and Objectives
 - Identifying and Evaluating Possible Adaptation Options
 - Implementing Adaptation Strategies
 - Tracking Action Effectiveness and Ecological Response
 - Landscape Conservation Design/Planning

- **Science and Management for Changing Ecosystem Processes and how they affect fish, wildlife and plants:**
 - Carbon Cycle and Sequestration
 - Fire Regimes
 - Hydrologic Regimes
 - Meteorological Changes (e.g. air temperature)
 - Sea Level Rise and Changing Ocean Conditions
 - Sediment Regimes
 - Storm Frequency and Intensity

- **Science Delivery**
 - What's worked
 - Innovative ways to deliver science

Nadine: Do we want presenters from all stages of climate-smart process?

Yes, we are looking for high level people who can people to think new ways and/or share lessons learned or major success stories.

Pat: Atmospheric science and reservoir management ideas, is that appropriate? Part of Russian River Blueprint of NOAA.

Yes, that is great!

Action: Steering Committee members will each fill out a worksheet to provide suggestions for plenaries and session chairs. Please send to Rebecca or bring to January 7-8 in person meeting.

Action: Robert Mesta and Dave Busch are familiar with the process of getting workshop approval from DOI when gathering federal employees. Rebecca will coordinate them on this.

Ecosystem Processes Project

This type of project is a proposed 2015 priority and the CA LCC is considering developing a focused RFP for 1-2 project in FY '15. During the January Steering Committee meeting we will decide how to focus this RFP.

The Science-Management Framework Objective 2 states the CA LCC will implement at least two interdisciplinary projects to assess and address climate change impacts to priority ecosystem processes at a landscape scale. Priority ecosystem processes include:

- Changing hydrologic regimes
- Changing sediment regimes
- Meteorological changes (i.e. air temperature)
- Changing fire regimes
- Carbon cycle or carbon sequestration
- Sea-level rise and changing ocean conditions
- Changes in storm frequency and intensity

We are gathering input from Science-Management Team and a few others to obtain expertise via MeetingSphere. Use the following link for your input and ideas:

https://us01.meetingsphere.com/53081160/calcc_ecosystem_process_input

Action: CA LCC staff will send link to Meeting Sphere to Steering Committee. This will input to focus of RFP for 2015. Please fill out before the January meeting.

January 7-8, 2014 Steering Committee Meeting at Consumnes River Preserve

We will stay at the Ryde Hotel in Walnut Grove. There is a meeting fee for lunches and it needs to be cash, around \$30. We will be having after hour's dinner and fun time.

The Center for Collaborative Policy reserved rooms for everyone and those folks on travel status will pay for their room.

On January 7th we will start at 9:30 am. On January 8th we will start at 8:00 am. Afternoon on second day will keep Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project Steering Committee member later to discuss goals and objectives for that project. Those not involved in that project can go home after lunch.

Action: Send agenda early next week.

Beth: North American Waterfowl Plan Committee meeting in Napa on 20-23. CVJV, SFBJV, and Pacific Coast JV will all be reporting at this meeting.

Adjourn

Thank you all for attending!