



Steering Committee Meeting Notes February 28, 2014

Attendance:

Ellie Cohen – Point Blue Conservation Science, Chair
Michelle Selmon – CA DWR, Vice Chair
Dave Busch – USGS
Diana Craig – USFS
Angie Evenden – National Park Service
Todd Hopkins – USFWS
Kevin Hunting – CDFW
Rodd Kelsey – The Nature Conservancy
Mark Kramer – The Nature Conservancy
Natalie Manning – NOAA
Ruth Ostroff – Central Valley Joint Venture
Wayne Spencer – Conservation Biology Institute

CA LCC Staff –

Deb Schlafmann – Coordinator
Rebecca Fris – Science Coordinator
Andrea Graffis – Communication Coordinator
Zhahai Stewart – Data Manager
Deanne DiPietro – Data Manager

Communication Planning

Andrea presented the revised 5-year Communication Framework. Andrea identified the changes based on December 2013 Steering Committee meeting comments. Todd Hopkins motioned to approve the 5-year Communication Framework. All members voted to adopt.

Andrea also presented a draft annual 2014 Communication Plan. As recommended by the Steering Committee this plan identifies actions for 2014 and prioritizes implementation of the actions based on need and funding.

Considering the activities planned for 2014, the Communication Team is requesting additional partners in its membership. Andrea is investigating possible members, but nominees from Steering Committee organizations are strongly encouraged! Angie Evenden offered to identify a National Parks Service representative for the Communication Team. A Steering Committee (SC) member asked the current composition of the team. Andrea gave a list and also stated the website will be updated with all teams and the membership.

Action Items:

1. *SC send comments on the annual Communication Plan to Deb by March 14.*
2. *Andrea will add all teams & their membership to the website.*
3. *SC members are encouraged to review and nominate other members for the Communication Team.*
4. *Angie will look into a NPS representative.*

Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Training

Michelle Selmon presented a proposal for a TEK training in September/October. The target audience is Steering Committee members and partners including tribes. This first workshop is to have partners involved in landscape conservation familiar with issues and sensitivities surrounding TEK. The goal is to have increased institutional support for TEK into landscape planning and widen opportunities for co-management of resources leading to resilient landscapes.

Discussion included checking with Bureau of Indian Affairs for funding purposes. Options for the TEK summit location included CDFW Resources Auditorium and Sac State University.

Action Items:

1. *SC members send comments on the TEK proposal to Michelle by March 14.*
2. *SC members send recommended speakers for the TEK summit to Michelle.*
3. *CA LCC staff will find the BIA RFP for TEK and see if it will fit with this activity.*
4. *Andrea will work with Michelle on getting TEK information on the CA LCC website.*

Outcomes from the National LCC Network meeting; Jan 28-30, 2014

Deb reported two major outcomes from the national meeting is 1) the development of a LCC network Strategic Plan, and 2) planning congressional visits this spring. Ellie is part of the congressional working group. Kevin, Mark and Ellie volunteered to work on LCC messaging. We need to organize a call around this.

SC recommended hosting a National Council meeting here in California.

*We need to send all the Steering Committee materials to distribute to all their staff. This includes:

- The Estuary newsletter
- The Science-Management Framework
- The annual report due at the end of March

Action Item:

1. *LCC Staff will initiate a conference call on LCC messaging for local, regional, and national informational purposes.*

Outcomes from the first LCC Council meeting; Feb 4-5, 2014

Deb reported the meeting went well with lots of enthusiasm. Marc Miller, Director of Ill Dept. of Resources and Lynn Scarlett, TNC Public Affairs were identified as Co-Chairs of the Council. Three working groups were developed; 1. Communication, 2. Strategic Planning (to work with the LCC Network effort), 3. Charter revision. The group plans to reach out to LCCs to understand barriers (to provide help) and successes (to celebrate and share with others).

Deb mentioned the western states were not represented on the Council. Kevin offered to look into Western AFWA rep. for Council.

Action Items:

1. *Deb will provide Kevin with the formal request to have the western states participate on the Council.*
2. *Kevin will follow up with potential state participants.*

Fish and Wildlife Service LCC review and potential impacts

Deb reported this internal FWS review is in development, a report will be provided to the Directorate in April and outcomes may be realized in 2015, but it's still too early to say and Deb will keep all updated on progress.

Budget for 2014 and National Academy of Science review

Deb gave an overview on national and regional reductions for LCCs. It isn't certain what this means specifically for CA LCC. In the budget appropriation Congress requested a National Academy of Science review on the LCCs. It's estimated the review will take 1.5-2 years and cost at least \$1M.

FY 14 Plan implementation

Rebecca reported the approximate process and timeline for place-based projects RFP. She will initiate a Science-Management Team discussion on this. The estimated timing is:

- RFP out in April
- Review of proposals by Review Team in May
- Funding recommendation to Steering Committee in June

Deb reviewed the implementation table and the commitments we made for the current year. She gave a heads up that she will be contacting everyone to provide input on where his/her organization fits into the implementation table.

Deb expressed need to develop a Workshop Planning Team develop the large Affiliation Workshop later this year. Both Angie Evenden and Dave Busch volunteered to help out.

Actions:

1. *Rebecca will call on the Science-Management Team to generate 2014 RFP.*
2. *SC send Workshop Planning Team nominees to Deb by March 14th.*
3. *Deb will contact SC members to explore their contributions to the LCC activities in 2014.*

Next steps

It's estimated that our next meeting will occur in mid-late April to approve the 2014 RFP and discuss work in progress including congressional visits, Affiliation workshop development, TEK training, and landscape conservation design in the Central Valley.