



Steering Committee Meeting
August 14, 2013

Attendees:

Tom Suchanek – USGS
Dave Graber – NPS
Armand Gonzales – CDFW
Chrissy Howell – USFS
Tom Moore – NRCS
Robert Mesta – Sonoran Joint Venture
Michelle Denning - BOR
Pat Rutten - NOAA
Rick Kearney - USFWS
Michelle Selmon - DWR
Bob Schafer - CVJV
Tom Kimball - USGS
Wayne Spencer - CBI

CA LCC Staff:

Debra Schlafmann – Coordinator
Rebecca Fris – Science Coordinator
Karen Thorne – Science Advisor
Deanne DiPietro – Data Manager
Zhahai Stewart – Data Manager
Andrea Graffis – Communication Intern

Guests:

Steve Jackson – SWCSC
Kevin Shaffer - CDFW

Meeting Objectives:

- Briefing on SW Climate Science Center work
- Overview of recommended changes to the Charter
- Update on engagement of the “Alliance”
- Updates on the Teams

- LCC budget for FY 2014 zeroed out by House of Representatives
 - To get continued support we need to create something that people can look at and see the LCC's value. If we are not just information we will not get long term support.
 - Drought information system (drought.gov) is mentioned as an example of effective item for public to create connection.
 - OIG report/audit – didn't assess science quality, but found LCC to be highly valuable
 - All LCCs need to demonstrate positive results, including hands on roll of coordinating plans across their geographic areas.
 - We cannot just produce science, but must promote usage and application of the science and conservation goals.
 - We need a RFP with more landscape scale or ecosystem based objectives. We need to get away from the species approach to do this.
 - The Science Manager Team is already working towards all items in this discussion
 - We are missing social and economic aspects that would influence how we are perceived by those who control the budget.

- SW Climate Science Center - 2013 and beyond
 - (Steve Jackson, Director)

- California Fish Passage Forum – Group is interested in gaining a position on the Steering Committee
 - (Kevin Shaffer, Chair)
 - Forum is about providing more habitat to anadromous fishes through remediation of barriers.
 - Currently 13 members on the forum; CalTrans and Army Corps of Engineers recently joined
 - Do you ever focus on associated species with fish?
 - No, but we are beginning to look more at aquatic habitat restoration.
 - Do you look at management of water resources in CA as associated with dams that will not be removed?
 - This issue does come up, but we do not take stances on water management issues formally. There are water management agencies represented on the forum.

- Review Charter Team recommendations
 - We have updated Charter to reflect the approved strategic plan
 - We will vote on the changes at the next steering committee meeting
 - Organizational Structure changes:
 - Steering Committee: “subcommittees” term has been changed to “Teams”

- Members need to represent organizations that conduct climate smart conservation in 2 or more CA LCC Ecoregions
 - Once a year there will be a two day, in person steering committee meeting and a conference meeting bi-monthly
 - Chair length changed from one to two years
 - Outgoing chair will serve in an advisory role for two years, as needed.
 - Recommended added members: SWCSC, Fish Passage Forum, Sonoran Joint Venture, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
 - Unmet member needs: Southern California, Mexico, Tribes, 3 annual rotating chairs
 - Updated what the CA LCC staff roles are
 - Alliance: term not being used, should we keep that label? It is meant to describe all the partners not on the teams or steering committee that we would like to reach out to.
 - Added that alliance can participate in an annual LCC meeting
 - This could be a way for us to present info and science we supported and get feedback from the locals. Alliance will also be able to engage with each other.
 - Maybe we could merge annual LCC meeting with the annual steering committee meeting?
 - “affiliates” suggested as a better name than “alliance”
 - Members are going to individually do Charter edits and send them to Deb
- Science-Management Team update (Rebecca)
 - We are working on Science Framework
 - Greg Low is excellent facilitator
 - Had in person meeting to draft purpose, needs, and criteria
 - We are looking to do ecosystem based projects
 - We will work on draft and bring it to steering committee to review it
- We will produce a write up about the other teams and send it out. Also a doodle poll.