



California Landscape Conservation Cooperative  
Steering Committee Meeting Notes  
June 6, 2013 2:00-3:30pm

**Steering Committee:**

Ellie Cohen – Vice Chair, Point Blue Conservation Science  
Whitney Albright – CADFW  
Sarah Allen - NPS  
Michelle Denning - USBR  
Dave Graber - NPS  
Chrissy Howell - USFS  
Rick Kearny - USFWS  
Tom Kimball - USGS  
Nadine Peterson – SCC  
Patrick Rutten - NOAA  
Bob Shaffer - CVJV  
Michelle Selmon - DWR  
Wayne Spencer - CBI  
Tom Suchanek - USGS

**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

**Meeting Objectives:**

- Update on Climate Adaptation for Sierra Nevada, an CA LCC project
- Approve FY13 Recommended Projects
- Update on Teams progress

**Update on Climate Adaptation for Sierra Nevada, a CA LCC project:**

- Chrissy Howell presented “A vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy for focal resources of the Sierra Nevada”
- Slides from the presentation are posted on the Steering Committee meeting on CA LCC website.

### **FY13 Funding Recommendations:**

- Refer to memo sent out containing all recommended projects.
  - There is \$450,000 available for supporting increased science delivery of currently funded CA LCC projects. There was a team of 12 reviewers who met on June 3, 2013 to review, score, and recommended funding for best of 14 submitted proposals. Of the 14 proposals, seven projects are in memo for recommended funding. The seven projects equal \$368,511 in funds.
  - There is one project whose funding is contingent on more info. If this eighth project is added the funding total will equal \$418,511.
  - A ninth project has been asked to resubmit next fiscal year. Their funding will be considered even if the funding goals have changed from previous year.
- Comments:
  - Patrick: The USGS sea level rise proposal is similar to NOAA project.
    - Rebecca: This is proposal very local scale. The NOAA is larger scale and lower resolution.
  - Graber: How much agreement was there with reviewers?
    - Rebecca: There was not a huge range in average scores of proposals from reviewers, but decision was fairly apparent. Lower scores didn't make link to science delivery well enough.
    - Tom: Agrees with Rebecca. It was easy to distinguish between continued research proposals versus outreach and delivery proposals. The reviewers agreed on most items.
  - Graber: Did you feel you know which PI's can deliver well?
    - Tom: Yes, because we have already worked with them in past.
    - Rebecca: We have a file of project status and if they are doing deliverables on time and consistent with the original proposal.
  - Ellie: Is there money left over?
    - Rebecca: Yes, we would like to use remaining funds to support the development of a science strategy this summer/fall.
  - Nadine: What if a project needs more funding?
    - Rebecca: We did not find any projects needing more funding with this effort.
  - Ellie: Is there a motion to approve funding?
    - Dave and Nadine made motion to approve funding.

Funding recommendations approved by unanimously. No oppositions or abstentions

## Team Updates:

- Debra: Overview of four teams and who has been identified to participate in each: science-management team, communication team, charter team, and tribal group.
- **Science management team:**
  - This team was formed through nominations.
  - They will work on the science strategy framework (SSF) over the next few months, as outlined in strategic plan. The SSF will include an ecoregional framework emphasis with conservation goals.
  - Internally, the CA LCC staff is creating an outline for the science strategy. There will be an introductory call with the science management team at June's end to present this outline.
  - The science management team will meet in person for a day in July to further discuss the SSF.
  - A draft to SSF will be in steering committee hands in August.
  - Rebecca will contact people on the science management team who are new to the LCC in next few days.
  - This team will also identify FY'14 funding priorities.
- **Comments:**
  - Bob: Did these science management team nominees all agree to be on the team?
    - Rebecca: May need a little bit of follow-up on this. We think everyone knows of their nomination.
    - Bob: Christina Sloop wants to be on this team.
  - Tom: In future where will the LCC funding go?
    - Rick: 5-7% annual budget cut of federal funds for FWS is a possibility. Keep in mind FWS is not only LCC contributor. We need others to participate in funding.
    - Tom: USGS released RPF process for next year, \$600,000 for FY14. Maybe we can do some collaboration on projects?
    - Rick: This is great because we need to coordinate in an effort to not duplicate efforts.
    - Tom will send e-mail, but this was sent on LCC listserv yesterday.
  - Michelle D.: Is steering committee approving goals of science team? Or managing their expectations?
    - Rebecca: We want to let the science management team do work, but check in with the steering committee for approval. They will use the strategic plan as guidance as well as SWAP and NFWPCAS.
  - Ellie: Can we add a private land interest to the science team? Maybe a NRCS or RCD representative?
    - Rebecca: Sure.

- Wayne: Mike White, Science director at Tejon Ranch Conservancy suggested.
  - Ellie: Is going to ask her staff for recommendations for NRCS/private lands.
  - Rebecca: We want to hold a science workshop this summer. This will help stretch our reach more.
  
- **Communications Team:**
  - Debra: Asked Dave is there is a NPS person to add?
    - Ellie: Melissa Pitkins from Point Blue will join.
  - Debra: This group will work on the Communication strategy. We already have an outline to work off of. Next steering committee meeting in August we want to have the communication plan created. There are two functions of the communication plan: outreach and creating usable info and resources.
  
- **Charter Team:**
  - Debra: There will be a meeting next week to review charter. Another 2-3 meetings will develop recommendations for steering committee on Charter. In August steering committee meeting updating charter will be conducted.
  
- **Tribal Group:**
  - Debra: Michelle S. is instigator of this. We created this because in the charter there is a seat for tribal representation. We are struggling on how to get this representation.
  - Michelle S: I went to tribal advisory committee meeting where I did a 10 minute CA LCC presentation. It went well. I tried to get message out that we value interest of the tribes. Tribal members talked mostly about water concerns, but also a bit about climate change. A few people were already familiar with LCC's and were annoyed that we have not reached out until now. They want to be on the steering committee. North Pacific LCC has three positions on steering committee for tribes.
  - Debra: This recently formed tribal group is interested and engaged in communicating with tribes on behalf of CA LCC. In the past, we had sent 80 invites to Sacramento, Los Angeles, and San Diego workshops but only one person attended. This was only attempt to reach tribes so far. Tribal group members are going to speak at existing tribal leadership meetings to get the word out and to get feedback on how best to engage. Rebecca: We are going to observe neighboring LCC's and try to learn from that. Some have tribal projects. Great Basin LCC has training on climate adaptation just for tribes. Climate science center is working with tribes too and is another place to watch as an example.

**Next meeting date:**

- The next steering committee meeting will review charter changes, communication plan, and science strategy framework.
- Doodle poll will be put out by Debra for Mid-August meeting.
- Nadine: Coastal Conservancy will have climate change grant round. Maybe fund project where science is component of on the ground action. \$50,000-\$200,000 is the funding range per proposal. She will send a copy of this to the CA LCC.
- Patrick: When will place based project be identified?
  - Rebecca: The science strategy framework will develop this as part of the ecoregional priorities. FYI - There was a National multi-LCC project RFP out. We will find out which are funded in Mid-June.
- Ellie: Adjourned