

Great Northern LCC - Steering Committee Teleconference Notes

January 10, 2012 10:00am MST

Attendees

Sharon Kiefer, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Don Martin, EPA Region 10
Dave Smith, Intermountain West Joint Venture
Frank D'Erchia, USGS Central Region
Rick Mogren, Columbia River Basin Federal Caucus
Mark Zacharias, British Columbia Ministry of Environment (Victoria)
Michael Whitfield, Heart of the Rockies Initiative
Brad Shepard, Wildlife Conservation Society
Chris Smith, Wildlife Management Institute
Dave Brittell, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
TO Smith, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Kat Imhoff, The Nature Conservancy, Montana
Kurt Wiedenmann, BLM Idaho State Office
Bryce Bohn, BLM Idaho State Office
Nancy Lee, USGS NW Region and NW CSC
Sandy Brooks, BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office
John Emmerich, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Steve Guertin, USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region
Greg Watson, USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region
Mike Carrier, USFWS Pacific Region
Dan Blake, USFWS Wyoming
Yvette Converse, GNLCC Coordinator
Tom Olliff, GNLCC Coordinator
Sean Finn, GNLCC Science Coordinator
Scott Bischke, Mountain Works Inc.
Nina Chambers, GNLCC Strategic Framework Co-Lead
Gary Taber, GNLCC Strategic Framework Co-Lead
Mary McFadzen, GNLCC Communications Coordinator

**** = action item**

Spring SC meeting in British Columbia

- Madeline Maley GNLCC coordinator for BC (not here today)
- May 15, 16th best dates; tentative plan for that.
- Meet in Kamloops at university or perhaps at hotel/conference center
- Steve Guertin:—Know this is an important meeting and hope all orgs can have >= 1 rep. Funding support for travel available. Call USFWS as they will have some \$s for travel support.
- Need to get clearance for DOI folks to get across border. SG—we are putting together an overall package for logistics. USFWS and NPS are working to submit request to DOI for conference approval (>30 in attendance)
- ****** Information on meeting location and logistics will be made available on our web site and sent out
- ****** For non DOI or state—will facility have video capabilities? Need to check into this for those who can't afford to go.

- Frank D'Erchia, USGS—WLCI workshop that same week. Thus some WY members may not be able to be there. Could we have call right after meeting to help those not in attendance make decisions.
- ** YC request to Frank and others to send her info about their conflict

Governance Charter changes

- Review of changes from Whitefish meeting
- Some issues about quorum—tried to clarify in this next iteration
- WCS and HOR are included as originating SC.
- If organizations want to formally join SC they can petition through a letter indicating commitment and interest level
- Operating by consensus or no objection. Objectors can be voted down by SC.
- We are inviting tribal and 1st nations to join.
- ** Please provide comments by Jan 31. Then have AT look at one more time with plan to approve as final at March 20 SC telecon.
- Mike C—1st Paragraph and 2nd to last paragraph re tribes and 1st nations—is intent that any tribe that makes criteria will be included on SC? YC—assume yes but that is up to the SC. MC—last paragraph “must meet 3 criteria is that how they get on, are they in the same status as NGO or state. Tom Olliff, GNLC NPS—in Whitefish we are at a point of maturation where we have to define the SC membership so from here on we need to have written request.
- John Emmerich, WGF- pg 3 functions of SC—gives 5 elements (LCC), but 6 elements on pg 6 (these are functions of SC). Also, confused on the quorum. 60% of 28 = 17 but we say 13. These #s are not correct. YC—Quorum to reflect the originating group and took 60%. John later noted that 60% was accurate when considering 1 representative from each organization on originating SC (e.g., 1 BLM, 1 USGS)

Plan for FY12 Funding Guidance

- Steve Guertin—tough budgeting process this year for US govt in face of tough economics. Some proposals tough for DOI but ultimately ended up with ~1-1.5% reduction in DOI programs. For USFWS LCC program they got a small increase nationally. At this point, it appears GNLC will get full \$2M (including capacity and science), which is a good result. Congressman Simpson, chair of Interior Appropriations was given a tour with GNLC partners in ID to see/discuss GNLC as an example of what LCCs do which provided some help in understanding role of LCCs. Much bipartisan support.
- YC—we are developing the funding guidance for FY2012 assuming flat budget. Three emphasis areas expected—with 15-20 projects out there, we will (assuming SC agrees) emphasize support for (1) ongoing projects to completion (doesn't mean automatic but will be emphasized in evaluation). (2) Science needs that come out of the Strategic Framework workshop and priority setting (AT+ meeting outcome). (3) Emphasize on foundational science needs for critical national landscape programs (SWIG, etc.) and partnerships (JV, WGA) for alignment.
- ** Draft of funding guidance by early next week for SC comments. Out at end of Feb, have narrow 2 week window for submittals. SC will see draft document in ~1 week.
- For GNLC--NPS continues to fund an FTE and some travel and capacity support through Tom Olliff's office as co-coordinator; currently we do not have any specific information about USGS funding to support LCC science (as in previous years)
- Rick Mogren—great news on holding budget. Capacity funding often for tribe but governance document says *new* members need to bring own funding. Do we mean NGOs are expected to

fund own way but new tribal partners and state will be funding? Need to be clear on this. RM—not certain we can count on capacity in years ahead. ** YC will review language in governance to address that issue. As it stands, we do not intend the governance charter to mean partners must bring money to the table but we would like to encourage alignment and leveraging towards common goals.

- YC—related, BIA offered capacity and science (climate change) funds. We have been talking to that office about how we can leverage those dollars with LCCs. Sharon Kiefer, IFG—capacity support has been very helpful—we have used to help fund ID LCC liaison. Dave Brittell, WDFW—yes we need pot of support for travel, we use it strategically to participate in LCC.

Priority setting and strategic framework update

- Meet Feb 22, 23. AT+. Nancy Lee—NWCSC has hired a new director Dr. Gustavo Bisbal will coordinate with GNLCC on aligning CSC and LCC efforts to build on last years work.
- Tom Olliff—AT+ workshop (AT, SC, Partner Forums invited to ensure cross-pollination of GNLCC communities—). Hope is that we can come up with final recommendations on vision, conservation priorities major goal) and begin discussion on programmatic strategies. Document will come out after AT+ meeting to SC and be discussed in SC March telecom with the hope that we can approve as final at the May meeting.

Forum Leadership Team updates / new website / next call

- Sage Steppe, Rocky Mountain forums met via webinar. Leadership forum survey in progress to help know how to organize these forums, data sharing, connectivity, more. Columbia Basin forum not yet started up but later this year.
- New website launched this Dec. Take a look and give us some feedback. Meetings, science and products, etc.
- Next SC telecon: Mar 20, 10 AM. To include strategic framework, funding recommendation, governance, spring meeting.