



**Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI)
Executive Committee Meeting
Wyoming Game and Fish Headquarters, Cheyenne, Wyoming
February 26, 2013 – 1:00 p.m.**

WLCI – Executive Committee (EC) members/alternates present:

- Scott Talbot, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- John Emmerich, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Alternate
- Frank D’Erchia, U.S. Geological Survey, Alternate
- Wally Johnson, County Commissioners
- Mark Sattelberg, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Mary Jo Rugwell, Bureau of Land Management, Alternate
- Mary Thoman, Sweetwater County Conservation District
- Doug Miyamoto, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Alternate
- Dave Hamilton, U.S. Geological Survey, Alternate

WLCI – Coordination Team (CT) members present:

- Michele Windsor, Bureau of Land Management
- Pat Anderson, U.S. Geological Survey
- Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Amy Nicholas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Jim Wasseen, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Erica Cressall, Bureau of Land Management
- Genevieve Skora, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Others present:

- Pat Aullman, U.S. Representative Cynthia Lummis’ Office
- Sandy DaRif, U.S. Senator John Barrasso’s Office
- Reagen Green, U.S. Senator Mike Enzi’s Office
- Serena Baker, Bureau of Land Management
- Mary Wilson, Bureau of Land Management
- Natalie Latysh, U.S. Geological Survey
- Astrid Martinez, Natural Resource Conservation Services
- Tucker Fagan, U.S. Representative Cynthia Lummis’ Office
- John Kilpatrick, U.S. Geological Survey
- Tim Assal, U.S. Geological Survey

Meeting was called to order at 1:12 by Chairman Mary Thoman
Introductions were made. NPS and USFS did not have a representative present.

Old Business

Mary Thoman reiterated the importance of responding to the doodle polls and then notifying the coordinator later if there will be conflict so another doodle poll may be conducted.

Chairman Thoman addressed the Executive Committee. During times of limited funding it is even more imperative that we all work together to maximize our efforts and produce quality habitat projects on the landscape. While WLCI has all of the major systems in place to produce these types of projects, some of the partners are not always fully engaged with the WLCI process. It is incumbent that the leadership of the various entities relay the message to the field level people to work together on projects that would best fit the WLCI model. It is also helpful when field level people have time to prepare projects and WLCI is included in their evaluation criteria. Through WLCI some amazing “landscape level” projects are emerging. The WLCI partnership and projects are beginning to reach the levels of achievement envisioned by the founders.

At the upcoming August or November Local Project Development Team (LPDT) meetings, USGS will conduct presentations on how to use the Integrated Assessment.

Integrated Assessment (IA)- Tim Assal - USGS

Concerning the IA, discussion is still needed on updating the layers, possibly will be looking for input from field specialists. Also need to list some sort of time line for people to understand when and how often this database is updated or changed. Possibly including this in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). IA also provides another tool for developing decisions on projects for Local Project Development Teams (LPDT). The next step concerning IA is to work with WLCI Coordination Team (CT) to implement it:

- Project Ranking
- Online documentation
- Local teams/Involvement

WLCI Website Walk-through by Natalie Latysh

Data Management and Integration Team Lead for WLCI

The content on the WLCI website is updated by the WLCI Communication Team and USGS (Natalie Latysh). It has been updated to accurately display on a mobile device. The website is currently undergoing its 3rd major revision. Additional updates will address suggestions made by the CT and Communication team, adding new resources and features for WLCI related monitoring and monitoring protocols, introducing success stories, updating science

and conservation projects. The CT and Communication Team will continue to review these changes and provide content where necessary.

Conservation Action Plan (CAP)- Pat Anderson, Jim Wasseen

Progress has been made on CAP and most maps have been completed. Half of the summary narratives have been prepared but do contain incomplete information. Pat's staff is finding and making a table of needed information for the incomplete narratives. A new goal to complete the spatial layers is set for late May to June. The completion of the narratives has a goal to be completed by late May as well. More detailed information is needed to link conservation actions to our landscape priorities.

Mary Thoman, Pat Anderson - Sponsorship Framework

Within the document there are sections to write ideas or questions for each section. Please submit any of these ideas to Pat Anderson or Mary Thoman to be added to the sponsorship document and ready for the next meeting. The document is being developed to better accommodate the engagement of the business, industry, communities, other governmental, and non-governmental agencies.

Also, if a sponsor should donate funds without a designation of purpose, there is no information on how to delegate these funds. This process needs to be addressed. Another topic was a quick grant response and having information available on how to handle projects that occur unexpectedly due to something such as fire or drought.

Current Suggestions:

Reword "offsite mitigation" under expectations

- voluntary enhanced conservation
- environmental stewardship
- pre-development base line studies
- possibly list the 3 above as "tools"

Day 2 -8 am

WLCI Committee - Michele Windsor

Coordination Team tries to usually meet informally about every two weeks. It was suggested that WLCI CT provide a monthly update and also a yearly overview to the EC to keep all groups informed.

Business Meeting – Pat Anderson

The 2013 WLCI Business Meeting is currently being planned. The purpose of this meeting is to finalize the roles and short term priorities for WLCI teams and committees. One of the outcomes of this meeting will be to have a clear understanding what each team will be doing over the next year and establishing (defining) the appropriate schedule and staff commitments. After this meeting, we will summarize team priorities and staff commitments and share them with the executive leadership for input. Team roles and priorities will be addressed in the revised WLCI Operation Plan. The meeting will take place in Cheyenne on April 1, 2013 at 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. The executive members will be informed when the meeting venue with either video or Webex conferencing can be arranged. Please Contact Pat Anderson with any questions or suggestions.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) - Amy Nicholas

STAC provided their proposed draft revision documenting their role and activities that will be discussed at the WLCI Business Meeting. This will be appended to of the Science and Management Integration Plan. The plan may need to be revised in order to identify data gaps and new or immersing issues that are currently not addressed in the plan. Once everything is more defined and organized STAC will need engaged members that can commit the time.

Disbursement of Ruby Funds

Mary Thoman entertained the motion to disburse funds for 5 projects. Mark Sattleburg **motioned** to disburse funds. Seconded by Scott Talbot. Motion carried.

New Business

Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Update: WLCI was invited to participate as a panel during the RAC meeting in Rock Springs. Michele discussed members of this panel and what we addressed during the meeting. Currently new names that have been nominated for RAC membership are being reviewed by the administration. It is anticipated that this might happen before the next EC meeting.

Membership Extension: A process to formally recognize and encourage participation by past EC board members was proposed by Mary. It is recommended to ensure these members are added to the mailing list and are extended an invitation to continue to attend meetings.

Kyle Geffrey - First Interstate Bank and Wyoming Community Foundation

Spoke briefly about the status of our Ruby accounts and investment portfolio.

WLCI Industry PowerPoint - Michele Windsor

Industry conference in Rawlins - March 15th. Please send feedback on the PowerPoint or

flyer by March 15th to Frank D'Erchia or Genevieve Skora. Also please add any brainstorm ideas, upcoming conferences, or meetings that would be beneficial for all. It was also suggested to develop a calendar of events that could be accessed by everyone. Suggested that an invitation to Pati Smith be sent out to see if she can provide some insight or advice into marketing strategies or techniques. Hope to have a completed poster by next EC meeting.

NRCS Partnership with WLCI

Astrid Martinez - NRCS

Mary Thoman - entertained motion to update and edit MOU. Frank D'Erchia **motioned** to update and edit MOU. Doug Miyamoto seconded motion. Motion Carried

Update the MOU within a week and then send to Astrid to ensure the edits are approved.

Create a Doodle Poll for next meeting times

Meeting Suggestions

- June in Kemmerer, field trip to Fossil Butte National Monument & other USFS projects and ruby projects
 - Luigi's Restaurant – Thursday nights only
- Week of June 24th or 17th - Overnight Meeting - 1 day with field trips and 1/2 day meeting
- Mid september - week of 16th
 - Location to be determined based on projects of importance Note: Avoid First and third Tuesdays – conflicts with county commissioners (Wally Johnson)
 - Need a financial update for each EC meeting

Actions Items:

- A. Local Project Development Team Meetings
 - a. list of dates/locations on minutes
- B. Draft Letter to David Mott
- C. Invite Associates (former members) letter
- D. comments/input on PR flyer – March 15th
- E. List of Conferences/meetings that could help WLCI
- F. Doodle Poll for upcoming meeting dates
- G. Review MOU and comments, send back to be re-signed once completed
- H. Review and Comment on Sponsorship Framework - March 15th

Motion to Adjourn Meeting made by Wally Johnson.
Motion carried. Adjourned 11:38am

May 3rd – Sweetwater LPDT 9am – Game and Fish Office Green River

May 6th – Lincoln/Uinta LPDT 10 am - Kemmerer Library

May 15th – Carbon LPDT 10am – Medicine Bow Community Center

May 16th - Sublette LPDT 10 am – BLM Office Pinedale