



## **Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI)**

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

**Jackson Lake Lodge, Moran, Wyoming**

**September 26, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.**

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

- Cheryl Chatham, U.S. Forest Service
- John Emmerich, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Alternate
- Frank D’Erchia, U.S. Geological Survey, Alternate
- John Keck, National Park Service
- John Linn, County Commissioners
- Mark Sattelberg, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Don Simpson, Bureau of Land Management
- Mary Thoman, Sweetwater County Conservation District
- Randy Updike, U.S. Geological Survey
- Chris Wichmann, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, 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
- Clark McCreedy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Amy Nicholas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Jim Wasseen, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

#### **Others present:**

- Genevieve Skora, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Laura Biewick, U.S. Geological Survey
- Zack Bowen, U.S. Geological Survey
- Terry D’Erchia, U.S. Geological Survey
- Pat Aullman, U.S. Representative Cynthia Lummis’ Office
- Bonnie Cannon, U.S. Representative Cynthia Lummis’ Office
- Sandy DaRif, U.S. Senator John Barrasso’s Office
- Reagen Green, U.S. Senator Mike Enzi’s Office
- John Ruhs, Bureau of Land Management
- Serena Baker, Bureau of Land Management

The meeting was called to order at 10:26 a.m. by Chairman Mary Thoman. Introductions were made.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Administrative Fee Policy

Issue: Utah State University, a project proponent, is requesting a 40 percent increase in administrative costs.

The EC discussion and agreement is to maintain the ongoing policy which was previously established.

*Action Item: per Don Simpson's request, Michele Windsor will follow up with the Cooperative Education Study University (CESU) to verify their policy parameters.*

### Workshop Wrap-up and Timeline

Website: The Science Workshop website is nearly completed. To date, 18 abstract presentations have been posted to the website. Each session lead will draft a summary for inclusion.

Timeline: A planning timeline has been drafted noting lead time for tasks to be completed in an earlier timeframe.

### Possible Changes:

- Another agency may need to sign the venue contract
- A local liaison needs to be identified to help with logistics
- Another agency may need to sponsor the workshop
- Some participants are only authorized to attend one conference and their program professional conference takes priority
- The suggestion has been made to rotate the workshop to other towns within the WLCI boundary
- Speakers will be required to provide their presentations for web posting

Positives: Participants really liked the venue and the location in Rock Springs, Wyoming within the WLCI boundary.

### Formal Acknowledgements of Partners

The EC agrees the recognition of partners needs to be accomplished in a formal manner within a more timely fashion. Ideas for recognition included letters, certificates, plaques, press releases, and presentations at industry meetings. It was decided a committee would be formed to finalize and implement the recognition process.

add something under "Formal Acknowledgements" about "The idea of associate members and sponsorships was discussed."

Under "Thank You"....add John Linn and Bonnie Cannon were awarded plaques for their outstanding service to WLCI.

Committee to develop recognition process: Don Simpson, Frank D'Erchia, John Linn, Mary Thoman, CT and Communications Chair.

*Action Item: The CT will provide a list of partners for recognition. The CT and Communications Chair will formalize a recognition letter. Communications will send a Doodle poll conference call request to committee members.*

Timeline: The committee will make a presentation to the EC by the end of October. Recognition letters will be mailed to partners by November 15.

#### Social Media Use

The CT discussed using BLM's social media sites for more Facebook posts.

*Action Item: It was requested the EC provide the Communications Chair the name of their agency's social media contact, so posts to BLM social media sites could be forwarded to other agency contacts for reposting to that agency's Facebook/Twitter pages.*

#### 2012 Funding Update

In order to most effectively and expediently utilize the project funds which were returned, other nonpriority WLCI projects were granted the returned funding.

Issues:

- Returned money is often tied to specific agency projects, so that money was granted in excess to current agency projects.
- Projects were not granted additional funding if NEPA could not be accomplished in a timely manner.
- CT has generated a database to link documents, pictures, and reports to specific projects.
- Money cannot be carried over from one fiscal year to another.
  
- *Action Item: Funding recipients are required to do annual reporting, but are also requested to provide a summary of success and pictures to Communications for publication.*

### Review of May Minutes

*Action Item: Michele Windsor will add the title of the MOU and suggested changes to the minutes.*

John Linn made a **motion** to approve the May and August minutes, seconded by Don Simpson. Motion carried.

### Rapid Response Template

The EC approved the title of program to be: WLCI Quick Grant. Up to 5 percent of the WLCI's budget will be allocated for Quick Grants. Any money returned from current year projects, will be allocated to the Quick Grant program. The program will again be discussed at the January EC Meeting.

Requirements:

- Quick Grants will only utilize WLCI funding, no private sources
- Money must be obligated to projects by year end
- NEPA deferral will be a requirement

Partners' policy on similar programs:

- Other partners do not carry over money
- Funding is incorporated into annual budget
- Perhaps a contract allows some agencies to carry over funding

*Action Item: CT will request the BLM budget analyst to review the process for carrying over funding and discuss the idea with Bob Bud.*

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### Coordination Team Updates

Subcommittee updates – Committees are being realigned and asked to identify both short and long term priorities which ultimately will benefit and support the CT and meet the WLCI mission.

Website issues. Navigation is difficult and convoluted.

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC): Challenged by staffing and time issues. STAC is revising the Science and Management Integration Plan to bring it in line to more realistic goals.

*Action Item: this fall, the committees will each meet with the CT to review their status and recommended realignment plan. The CT will report on the realignment at the January EC meeting.*

Conservation Action Plan (CAP) – The CT is rewriting subsequent chapters dealing with geographic regions. Currently, receiving feedback from groups which include how science impacts projects. Project proponents and Local Project Development Teams are reviewing chapter associated with their projects. Some of the information being gathered now will be helpful in the annual budget process. The next draft may be available to present to the EC at the January meeting.

Challenges:

- The leading advocates for these regions have changed which has altered the vision and direction of projects which loses project continuity and commitment
- Putting a premium on leveraging dollars sometimes it makes it more difficult to have specific targeted measurable objectives.

Introduction of new staff – Clark McCreedy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; notification of hiring Kelly McFarland, Bureau of Land Management, Clerk.

Thank You

- Bonnie Cannon
- John Linn

Approval of 2013 Projects

Only the top 7 priority projects and continuing projects would be funded. The EC discussed funding easement projects to a lesser degree. Want to ensure projects meet the priorities in the CAP.

John Linn made a **motion** to approve the 2013 Project rankings up to priority number 7-10, with the exception of reducing the Luman Ranch Easement to \$25 thousand with the understanding it will be completed within this fiscal year. No second. Motion dies due to lack of a second.

John Emmerich made a **motion** to set a cap of 20 percent of the available new funding for all perpetuity easements in any fiscal year. John Keck seconds. John Emmerich amends the **motion** to set a maximum funding cap of \$50,000 for easements. John Keck seconds the amended motion. Motion carries.

Don Simpson made a **motion** to approve the 2013 Project ranking, with the exception of reducing the Luman Ranch Easement to \$50,000 and extend \$5,000 to the Condict Ranch

Habitat Improvements II, and the balance to be held for the WCLI Quick Grant. If other funding is available, then additional projects further down the list would be funded, with the exception of easements. Seconded by John Emmerich. Motion carries.

Presentation of Ruby Projects

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Justin Caudill gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Ruby Pipeline Projects.

Approval of Ruby Projects – John Emmerich made a **motion** to approve the Ruby Pipeline Projects as presented, seconded by John Linn. Motion carried.

Presentation of Siebert Project

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Justin Caudill gave a PowerPoint presentation on Siebert Project.

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

The next meeting will be held in late February 2013 at the Wyoming Game and Fish Headquarters, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

*Action Item: Michele Windsor will send out a Doodle poll for scheduling the February EC meeting during the last two weeks of February, starting at 1 p.m. on one day, and continuing to a second day.*

Submitted by Serena Baker, WLCI Communications Chair

Calendar of upcoming events – Local Project Development Team Meetings (LPDT) will be held:

- November 1, 10 a.m. at the Kemmerer Library
- November 2, 9 a.m. at the Green River Wyoming Game and Fish Office
- November 7, 10 a.m. at the BLM Rawlins Field Office
- November 8, 10 a.m. at the BLM Pinedale Field Office