

LCR-MSCP Steering Committee
November 30, 2005
Las Vegas, NV

The next meeting of the Steering Committee has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 26, 2006, at the McCarran Airport, Las Vegas, NV. (Mezzanine Level Rooms 4-5)

Attending:

Lorri Gray
Gerald Zimmerman
Laura Vecerina
Glen Gould
Jed Blake
Patti Aaron
Bill Werner
Michelle Freeark
David Weedman
Tom Hine
Chuck Cullom
David McHenry
Doyle Wilson
Maureen George
Ray Hedrick
Chris Hayes
Conrad Jones

Charles Paradzick
Chris Harris
Canh Nguyen
Michel Remington
Vikki Dee Bradshaw
Larry Purcell
Laura Simonek
Paul Selzer
Joe Vanderhorst
George Caan
Phillip Lehr
Sara Price
William Davis
Holly Cheong
Eileen Wynkoop
Jack Stonehocker
Gary Hansen

Bill Lamb
Brian Plude
Luke Stowe
Fred Worthley
Michael Langley
David Brown
Jerry Cormick
Sam Spiller
Jeannie Bouvia

By Telephone

Lesley Fitzpatrick
William Curtis
Kathy Wilson
Mathew Spriggs
Wade Noble

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – GERALD ZIMMERMAN

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. with Chairperson Jerry Zimmerman. There were introductions of all attending in person and on the telephone.

Review of Agenda

The Agenda was reviewed with no additions.

Public Comments:

No public comment was offered.

Approve August 24, 2005 Meeting Notes

The August 24, 2005 Meeting Notes were approved by consensus, with minor corrections. (Moved by Bill Werner, and seconded by Chris Harris)

WORKPLANS AND BUDGET – LORRI GRAY

FWS Letter on FY06 Workplans

Lorri Gray discussed the approval letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, regarding a request for consistency review for Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2006 Work Plan and Budget for the Lower Colorado River Multi Species Conservation Program, Arizona, California, and Nevada. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found the document sufficient. She thanked everyone that attended the Technical Review meeting.

FY06 Contributions and Obligations Reporting

Lorri Gray provided forms to the Steering Committee that provides a financial update on payments owed and received from non-Federal funding Partners through the end of November 2005. LADWP is expected to pay the first and second quarter payments during the second quarter. SCPPA has paid in full for the year. The second page, provides a summary of obligations. The obligations are lower due to the Continuing Resolution that limited our ability to obligate funds.

Draft Process for In-Kind Credit

A meeting will be scheduled to discuss processes, procedures, and criteria associated with In-Kind credit with an attempt to provide the Steering Committee a decision document prior to the April meeting.

PROJECT UPDATES

Cibola Valley – Patti Aaron

Patti Aaron presented a Power Point and a draft report on the Cibola Valley Conservation Area. The purpose of the project is to create a conservation area providing an integrated mosaic of between 500 to 1,019 acres of native habitat for covered species. A comment was made regarding the draft report, great work, but would like the source of water, volume and water right included in report. There was a question regarding the timeline, and Patti stated that phase I planting will begin in March.

Sprawls Island – Lorri Gray

This is a farmer owned parcel of just over 200 acres of land currently being farmed. The land is located in the state of Arizona and has a water right from Cibola Irrigation and Drainage District, We are currently waiting for a completed Federal Appraisal on the property.

Palo Verde Ecological Reserve – Lorri Gray

Reclamation is working with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) on an overall site design. CDFG will maintain some of the acres in the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve for their purposes. A Phase I report will be developed and distributed for review and comment. Phase I is a 30-acre plant nursery.

Planet Ranch – Lorri Gray

Currently owned by the City of Scottsdale, Arizona, located above the Bill Williams Refuge and purchased for \$13.5 million. The last Federal appraisal that was completed for this property valued it at \$3 - \$5 million. Discussions with the City continue.

Section 10 Backwater – Lorri Gray

Currently there exists a 10-acre backwater located on Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) land. A contractor is interested in excavating dirt, which could possibly result in creating approximately 40 acres and new backwaters. Reclamation will continue to work with AGFD to determine if the backwaters will meet the needs of the MSCP.

Boy Scout Camp – Holly Cheong

This is located down stream of Laughlin, Nevada, with 10 acre-feet of water rights. SNWA has purchased this property for \$920,000, and one of the options would be to create marsh wetlands.

PROCESS UPDATES – LORRI GRAY

Science Strategy

The Science Strategy is currently being written and will be distributed to a Technical Review Committee this Spring with a draft final being presented to the Steering Committee in April.

Site Selection Process

The draft document will be distributed in December, and then presented to the Technical Review Committee in the Spring, and the final document will be presented at the April Steering Committee Meeting.

Long Term Database Needs

Currently, a small group is looking into a Long Term Database needs. This small group is comprised of two Reclamation employees and a USGS employee.

STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE – LORRI GRAY

The steering committee schedule was included in the hand out package, as discussed, a few changes as noted, the acceptance of the Science Strategy and the acceptance of the Conservation Area Site Selection Criteria Report omitting Approve on both

GENERAL INFORMATION

System Conveyance and Operations Project – Laura Simonek

Laura discussed the moving of the discharge point from Las Vegas Wash to Lake Mead. MWD is concerned about whether this project will have an effect on the habitat or the water quality, MWD was also concerned that the draft documents did not reference MSCP. Leslie F. stated that they have sent comments in regarding the effects on all fish not just endangered. There was a motion on the floor from Tom H. and seconded that LCR-MSCP, (Jerry Z.) draft a letter on MSCP letterhead requesting that the program address the MSCP.

Status of River Trips – Laura Vecerina

The river trip is coming up next week, December 5 - 8, 2005. Everything has been arranged and there will be approximately 50 people attending.

New WEB Design – Laura Vecerina

The WEB page for the Lower Colorado River Multi Species Conservation Program has been updated. This will provide more information and easier access.

SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS
Steering Committee Meeting
November 30, 2005

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be April 26, 2006 at McCarran Airport in Las Vegas.

Action Items

1. ACTION – Approve August 24, 2005 Meeting Notes

The Steering Committee approved by consensus the Steering Committee meeting notes, with minor corrections (moved by Bill Werner, and seconded by Chris Harris).

2. ACTION – Draft Letter

The Steering Committee recommended that Jerry Zimmerman draft a letter on MSCP letterhead requesting that the MSCP be acknowledged in the Lake Mead Wash Project documents.