

Draft Meeting Notes
LCR MSCP Steering Committee October 28, 2009
Harrah's, Laughlin, NV

Attending

George Caan	Sara Price	Jason Thiriot
Jack Stonehocker	Bill Davis	Pat Barber
David Elms	Ramone McCoy	Gary Hansen
Michael Cohen	Maureen George	Wade Noble
Doyle Wilson	Stephanie Yard	Allen Haden
David Blanchard	Bill Singleton	Mark Lamer
Holly Cheong	Terry Murphy	Bill Werner
Vikki Dee Bradshaw	Michel Remington	Ed Smith
Fred Worthley	Terry Fulp	Larry Purcell
Laura Simonek	Lesley Fitzpatrick	Bill Lamb
Chuck Cullom	Terry Sue Rossi	Marianne Stemmer
Laura Vecerina	Linda Carbone	John Swett
Jed Blake	Chris Dodge	Nicole Pageler
Ashlee Rudolph	Jon Sjoberg	

Attending Via Conference Call

Troy Smith Tom Collazo

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson George Caan. There were self-introductions of all attending.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve June 24, 2009 Meeting Notes

The June 24, 2009 Meeting Notes were approved. (Moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Maureen George, and adopted by consensus.)

New Member – The Nature Conservancy

Tom Collazo, Associate State Director from The Nature Conservancy, thanked the Committee for considering them and welcomed the opportunity to become a member of the LCR MSCP Steering Committee. Tom explained that The Nature Conservancy had a long history of involvement with conservation issues and that they would like to work with the MSCP members and contribute to the MSCP process in protecting the environment of the lower Colorado River. He indicated that they would like to join as part of the Conservation Participant Group and that they would abide by the Steering Committee bylaws and regularly attend Steering Committee meetings. Brenda Burman, Northern Arizona Program Director will be their main representative.

Resolution 10-001, The Nature Conservancy Steering Committee Membership, was moved by Maureen George, seconded by Jon Sjoberg, and adopted by consensus.

2. WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

John Swett reported that Reclamation received the August 24, 2009 letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service accepting the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Fiscal Year 2008 Accomplishment Report and determining that the implementation of the Fiscal Year 2010 Work Plan and Budget meets the conservation requirements and is consistent with the LCR MSCP section 10(a)(1)(A) permit and biological opinion.

John Swett reviewed the FY2010 Funding schedule and noted that most of the first quarter contributions had been received. He requested that the Status of the Land and Water Funding Account be moved to the April Steering Committee meeting.

3. FLAT-TAILED HORNED LIZARD LAND

John Swett provided a brief overview of the flat-tailed horned lizard conservation measure. The LCR MSCP is required to protect 230 acres of unprotected flat-tailed horned lizard habitat. Reclamation has identified existing unprotected parcels within the Salt Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern of the Dos Palmas Conservation Area. Reclamation is seeking approval to secure those parcels for up to \$276,000. The property would be turned over for ownership and management by the BLM.

Program Decision Document 10-001: Land Approval was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Michel Remington, and adopted by consensus.

4. PROJECT UPDATES

Laguna Division Conservation Area

Alan Hayden of Natural Chanel Design gave a presentation on the restoration design for the Laguna Division Conservation Area. There was discussion concerning water accounting, impacts to black rail and clapper rail habitat, and habitat credit. Bill Singleton indicated that construction for the Laguna Division Conservation Area was moved to FY12.

Work Task E27: Laguna Division Conservation Area – Proposed FY10 activities states the “Restoration activities will continue forward assuming the Steering Committee has concurred with the restoration design”. George Caan stated that the purpose of Resolution 10-002 is for the Steering Committee to concur with the restoration design and allow for the continuation of planning activities.

Resolution 10-002 was moved by Chuck Cullom, seconded by Jon Sjoberg, and adopted by consensus.

Topock Marsh Strategy

Terry Murphy stated that the LCR MSCP, through Avoidance and Minimization Measure 2 (AMM2) has a conservation responsibility for Topock Marsh to ensure that future water deliveries to the marsh are not compromised by the covered actions. He stated that there are two parts to AMM2, a construction component, which was suggested to include improvements to the intake structures and purchase of electric pumps, and an operation and maintenance component.

The FWS is proposing to create a new primary intake structure associated with a new, concrete lined, delivery canal to improve the water delivery system to Topock Marsh. The FWS has agreed that if the LCR MSCP funds the construction of the new Fire Break Inlet Structure, that the construction contribution under AMM2 would be met.

Resolution 10-003, moved by Fred Worthley, seconded by Bill Werner, and adopted by consensus, states that the Steering Committee concurs with the proposed LCR MSCP project contribution to meet the requirements of AMM2.

Final Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2010 Work Plan and Budget – Work Task Changes

Terry Murphy explained that due to project efficiencies and changes in planting schedules that funding was available within a number of work tasks (E5, E15, E24) which could be used to increase funding for Topock Marsh Pumping (E17) and the Laguna Division Conservation Area (E27). He proposed budget revisions to the approved FY10 Annual Work Tasks.

Budget adjustments to Work Tasks E5, E15, E17, E24, and E27 were moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Chuck Cullom, and adopted by consensus.

Riparian /Backwater Habitat Goals by Reach

Terry Murphy explained Reclamation had been developing Riparian/Backwater Habitat Goals by Reach. This could be used as a long term planning tool to guide the program. He indicated that a technical work group meeting would be scheduled to get input on the proposed goals.

5. STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Laura Vecerina reviewed the LCR MSCP Schedule through June 2010. A Financial Work Group meeting has been scheduled for February 24, 2010 and a Work Group meeting, along with a tour of Yuma East Wetlands has been scheduled for March 24-25, 2010 in Yuma, Arizona. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2010 in Las Vegas.

6. SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

The Steering Committee took action on five items.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.