

Draft Meeting Notes
LCR MSCP Steering Committee April 27, 2011
McCarran International Airport

Attending

Perri Benemelis	Jeff Lantow	Laura Sandor
Eric Best	Tricia McCraw	Laura Simonek
Linda Carbone	Terry Murphy	Jon Sjoberg
Kate Cherry	Judi Nielsen	John Swett
Terry Fulp	Wade Noble	Jason Thiriot
Mike Gazda	Theresa Olson	Laura Vecerina
Christopher Harris	Sara Price	Eric Volkman
Kirk Koch	Larry Purcell	Doyle Wilson
Bill Lamb	Terry Sue Rossi	

Attending Via Conference Call

Tab Bommarito	Lesley Fitzpatrick	Chuck Paradzick
Brenda Burman	Maureen George	
Chuck Cullom	Fred Worthley	

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:36 a.m. by Perri Benemelis. There were self-introductions of all attending.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve October 27, 2010 Meeting Notes

The October 27, 2010 Meeting Notes were approved. (Moved by Jon Sjoberg, seconded by Bill Lamb, and adopted by consensus.)

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chris Harris was elected as Chair. (Moved by Terry Sue Rossi, seconded by Fred Worthley, and approved by consensus.)

Perri Benemelis was elected as Vice-Chair. (Moved by Terry Sue Rossi, seconded by Fred Worthley, and approved by consensus.)

2. WORK PLANS AND BUDGET

FY10 Accomplishments

John Swett provided an overview of the LCR MSCP FY10 Accomplishments. The Steering Committee had approved a FY10 Work Plan Budget of \$20,729,810. FY10 program accomplishment was \$19,518,164.19. Terry Murphy, Theresa Olson, and Eric Volkman provided an overview of FY10 accomplishments for Restoration, Riparian Research and Monitoring, and Fish Augmentation, Research and Monitoring. Power Point presentations can be found on the LCR MSCP website under the April 27, 2011 meeting materials.

Program and Financial Status

John Swett noted that Reclamation had received all required contributions through the third quarter of FY11. He noted that SNWA will be receiving an in-kind credit of \$436,000 and both MWD and SDCWA will be using funding credits this year.

John discussed the affect on FY11 federal funding due to the continuing resolution. He indicated that the program held off on initiating new work tasks in FY11. Now that the federal budget has been passed, a review will be done to determine if those work tasks can be initiated. John provided an update on FY11 accomplishments. Through the end of March, the program has obligated \$10,627,963.32, not including funding contributed to the Habitat Maintenance Fund.

John provided an update on funding in the Habitat Maintenance Fund. Through FY10, there was \$3,346,682.94 in the fund, including interest. John also provided the draft FY12 funding schedule. This schedule is based on a preliminary interest rate of 1.210. The final interest rate will be available in May.

Draft FY2012 Work Plan and Budget

John Swett noted that the Draft Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2012 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishment Report is posted to the LCR MSCP website. Written comments are due by May 6 and a technical work group meeting is scheduled in Phoenix for May 11 and 12. The final work plan will be posted by June 15.

3. PROJECT UPDATES

Yuma East Wetlands

John Swett reported that the Quechan tribe did have tribal elections in December, but there was a recall and new elections were scheduled for May. He indicated that he was going to wait until after the May elections before meeting with the tribal council on the Land Use Agreement.

Flannemouth Sucker Habitat Use, Preference, and Recruitment Downstream of Davis Dam 2006-2010

Eric Best, from Reclamation's Denver Technical Service's Center, provided a summary of the results from 2006 to 2010 on the Flannemouth Sucker Habitat, Use, Preference, and Recruitment Study downstream of Davis Dam.

4. PROCESS UPDATES

Minor Modifications to HCP

A letter was received from the FWS approving the minor modifications made to conservation measures RASU3, BONY3, BLRA1, STBU1, THMI1.

Draft LCR MSCP Habitat Credit Performance Standards

John Swett indicated that a Technical Work Group meeting had been scheduled for the afternoon of May 12 in Phoenix to go over comments received on the Draft LCR MSCP Habitat Credit Performance Standards.

Habitat Maintenance Fund

John Swett reported that Sonja Kokos is working with Lesley Fitzpatrick on developing a draft process for use of the Habitat Maintenance Fund. Once a draft process is developed it will be sent to the Steering Committee for review.

5. STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Laura Vecerina reviewed upcoming meetings for the Steering Committee. A Technical Work group meeting to go over comments on draft work plan is scheduled for May 11 and 12 in Phoenix. The afternoon of May 12 a meeting will be held to discuss comments on the Draft Habitat Credit Performance Standards. The Steering Committee Conference Call is scheduled for June 22 at 9:30 pdt/mst.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION

Salt Cedar Beetle Update

Theresa Olson provided an update on the Salt Cedar beetle releases and the beetle's current locations. The salt cedar beetle was present in 2010 defoliating plants in the St George area and is moving south into Nevada. The defoliation caused by the beetle could have detrimental effects to willow flycatcher nesting success in areas where the salt cedar is used as nesting habitat.

Sonoran Desert Tortoise Listing

John Swett indicated that the FWS did find that the listing of the Sonoran desert tortoise was warranted, but due to high priority actions, it is only being listed as a candidate species for right now. John said that if the tortoise is listed the Program will have to look at what impacts the LCR MSCP covered actions and activities may have on the species.

7. SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

The Steering Committee took action on three items.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.