

**Appalachian LCC  
Interim Steering Committee Meeting Notes  
December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Executive Summary:**

The meeting at the Inn at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA was well attended by 41 ISC members, representatives, and staff. There were four major topics covered at this gathering regarding operations and administration of the LCC.

David Whitehurst, VA and AppLCC Chair  
Jean Brennan, AppLCC Coordinator  
Bridgett Costanzo, AppLCC Science Coordinator  
Megan Nagel, FWS R5 SA Comm. Specialist  
Rick Bennett, Regional Scientist, NE Region  
Wendi Weber, FWS R5 NE Region  
Chris Burkett, Session Facilitator, VA DGIF  
Karen Waldrop, KY \*  
Gwen Brewer, MD  
Chris McGrath, NC  
Paul Johansen, WV and AppLCC Vice-Chair  
Doug Stang, EBTJV  
Cal Dubrock, PA  
Dave Day, PA \*  
Mike Harris, GA  
Michael LaVoie, Eastern Band Cherokee  
Rick Durbrow, EPA R4 SE \*  
Tai-ming Chang, EPA R3 NE  
Ellen Mecray, NOAA NE Region

Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini, NPS Capital Region  
Ray Albright, NPS SE Region  
Jim Schaberl, NPS NE Region  
Sherry Morgan, FWS R5 NE Region  
Mike Picirilli, FWS R4 SE Region  
Dean Demerest, Guest, FWS R4  
Tom Shope, OSMRE  
Dave Russ, NE USGS \*  
Rachel Muir, Guest, NE CSC  
Jerry McMahon, Guest, SE CSC  
Danny Lee, FS SRS  
Clyde Thompson, FS Region 8 & 9  
Bill Lorenz, FS Region 8 & 9  
Helen Rucker, TVA  
Bill Reeves, SARP  
Brian Smith, Guest, AMJV  
Todd Fearer, Guest, AMJV  
Thomas Minney, TNC CAILI  
Pat Ruble, WMI

\*Teleconference participants

**LCC Operations**

**Topic 1) ISC vision for AppLCC Roles & Responsibilities**

The meeting began with a facilitated discussion of how the ISC membership viewed the roles, responsibilities, and potential for value-added of the Appalachian LCC. The feedback from this discussion will be used to guide completion of the draft operations plan. Several common themes arose.

- Serve a coordination function for LCC partners challenged with landscape-scale issues
- Translate science and deliver good science products to managers, decision-makers
- Facilitate development of a common habitat mapping system and unified goals for joint conservation targets
- Assist in tracking landscape-scale accomplishments
- Bring in new partners, especially non-traditional ones
- Leverage and hold funds for joint efforts

- Ensure partners' efforts are well coordinated with National efforts

The operations plan draft will be finalized and presented to the ISC for a vote at the next meeting, likely in June of 2012.

### **Topic 2) Discussion regarding adopting Science Needs**

The Interim Steering Committee was asked to consider how to proceed forward on recommendations for top science needs generated as a result of the Conservation Priorities Science Needs Workshop held in the same venue the previous week, and attended by over 150 expert scientists. The ISC voted to pursue the top five science needs and directed LCC staff to create and oversee expert workgroups for each of these; several ISC members and alternates also offered to serve on specific workgroups. Workgroups would be tasked with preparing 1-3 project narratives to describe in further detail what deliverables address each science need. A schedule for accomplishing this was agreed upon as follows: project descriptions due back to ISC by the first week of February 2012; schedule conference call within the first two weeks of February; vendor decisions by the end of March.

## **LCC Administration**

### **Topic 3) ApplLCC financial support for Events/Conferences**

The opportunity to sponsor an upcoming conference was discussed and the general question was tabled for future deliberation.

### **Topic 4) LCC Boundary Issues and Change Requests**

[Re: NALCC and SALCC] The ISC considered whether to act on several requests to adjust LCC boundaries. It was decided that for modest boundary adjustments, decision-making authority would be delegated to the LCC Coordinator. For significant boundary changes, it was determined that LCC staff should develop recommendations and present these for ISC vote.

[Re: GCPO LCC] The ISC decided not to entertain the current request from the GCPO LCC but to instead defer its decision until the ApplLCC was in its own planning phase. In the meantime, ApplLCC staff were asked to consult with GCPO LCC staff to better define how that might actually be coordinated and to achieve a the higher vision of the LCC concept to manage at a landscape-level, across taxa, and across habitat types.

### **Topic 5) Proposal to hire a shared Communications Specialist**

The ISC considered whether to use a portion of FY11 project funds to jointly hire a Conservation Communications Specialist, to be shared with the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture. This measure passed unanimously.

**Next ISC Meeting:** Staff will work with ISC Chairman to determine the dates for the next in-person ISC meeting. Any member interested in hosting the meeting should notify David Whitehurst, Chair or Jean Brennan, LCC Coordinator.

## **Off-Site Participation Comments submitted after meeting Re: Future ISC Meetings**

Subsequent to the December 8, 2011 ISC meeting, it was suggested that participation opportunities for off-site participation should be improved. The following options were suggested to improve communication with off-site participants:

1. In addition to the teleconferencing option, use WebEx and have an on-site participant monitor the WebEx system since it has a "hand raised" feature. It also allows users to type comments or questions. These comments or questions could then be read to the group, or the "monitor" could raise their hand on behalf of the teleconferencing participant. This technology is available and easy to use.
2. If WebEx is not available or feasible, then have the leader/facilitator specifically and frequently ask teleconferencing participants for comments or questions.
3. Have teleconferencing participants simply state "raised hand" and then wait to be acknowledged by the moderator. This would however, seem to be a weak solution, since simply stating "raised hand" may interrupt someone and if there are numerous teleconference participants, could create further confusion.
4. Use web broadcasts, as at the November Workshop, so off-site participants can see the on-site participants and can then know if there are others who are speaking or have their hands raised.