



North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Steering Committee Meeting Summary
Webinar
March 22, 2013

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Welcome and Introductions

Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues facilitator, welcomed everyone to the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC) Steering Committee (the Committee) Internet meeting. Penny discussed how to use the My Meeting technology and had everyone test out the raise hand and chat functions.

Rory Annett, British Columbia and NPLCC Co-Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Eric Morrison as the new Tribal/First Nations representative for Alaska. Rory reviewed Eric's background and expressed his appreciation for Eric's willingness to participate on the Committee.

Rory reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives:

- Adopt the Draft Implementation Plan for the Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Strategy, 2013-2016.
- Select a new Steering Committee Co-Chair.
- Discuss NPLCC budget status.
- Welcome new Alaska Tribal Steering Committee representative.

Steering Committee Business

Penny indicated that no edits were received on the December 5-6 Steering Committee meeting summary. The Committee approved the meeting summary.

Budget Status

John Mankowski, NPLCC Coordinator, said that the NPLCC is experiencing impacts from sequestration but believes the NPLCC is positioned to manage these cuts, while maintaining forward momentum on the NPLCC work plan. NPLCC staff is under travel restrictions, but can continue to travel for mission-critical North Pacific LCC meetings and events.

Website

John Mankowski encouraged Committee members to go to the new NPLCC website (www.northpacificlcc.org). He highlighted the events and meeting calendar, the news section, and the ability to join the NPLCC's mailing list. He explained that the mailing list now has 926 subscribers and he asked that Committee members ask their colleagues to join if they are interested. The website also provides access to the new Tribes/First Nations map that shows general locations for Tribes/First Nations throughout the NPLCC.

Other Updates

John Mankowski noted that staff will be offering a general presentation on the NPLCC in Vancouver, BC on April 12 (Subsequently rescheduled to sometime in May at BC's request). Further details about the meeting will be posted on the NPLCC's websites. The meeting is an opportunity for the NPLCC to continue expanding its connections with Canadian partners.

Sue Rodman, State of Alaska, asked if NPLCC staff could comment on the new LCC data management best practices that are being proposed.

Mary Mahaffy, NPLCC Science Coordinator, said that Tom Miewald, the NPLCC's Data Management Coordinator, has been working at the national LCC level on data management practices. She will check into getting further information to share with the Committee.

ACTION ITEM: Mary will work with Tom to provide additional information on data management best practices to the Committee.

Steering Committee Co-Chair Selection

Penny Mabie reminded the Committee that they need to select a new Co-Chair. Co-Chair nominations have been open since the December Committee meeting and Lyman Thorsteinson, US Geological Survey (Alaska), was the only nomination received. Penny opened the floor for any further nominations; no further nominations were made.

Lyman Thorsteinson discussed his interest in serving as Committee Co-Chair. He explained the importance of having an Alaskan representative of the NPLCC on the leadership team. He has worked in various capacities in the research and resource management fields, working for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Park Service, and USGS. Lyman reviewed his past

experience and explained he has been engaged with the NPLCC from the beginning and is involved on the Science and Traditional Ecological (S-TEK) Subcommittee.

DECISION POINT: The Committee reached consensus on Lyman becoming the new Committee Co-Chair.

Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Implementation Plan

Frank Shipley, USGS (Pacific Northwest), and Mary Mahaffy, NPLCC Science Coordinator, gave a presentation on the [draft Implementation Plan](#) for the NPLCC Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S-TEK) Strategy 2013-2016; their presentation is can be found [here](#).

Frank explained that the S-TEK Subcommittee is seeking approval on the Implementation Plan from the Committee. He reviewed the process for how the plan was developed (see Figure 1). First, the S-TEK Subcommittee developed a table of all potential activities that could be pursued. This table was developed from comments shared during the National Wildlife Federations’ expert panels and workshops and from S-TEK Subcommittee discussions during the development of the S-TEK Strategy and Implementation Plan. This list was consolidated into 28 potential activities. Second, 18 S-TEK Subcommittee members evaluated the potential activities and scored them to indicate if an activity should get NPLCC support or partner support. Lastly, five focused activities were identified along with specific actions for each focused activity. This was used to identify specific actions that the NPLCC should take over the next two years. These actions will be reviewed for 2014.

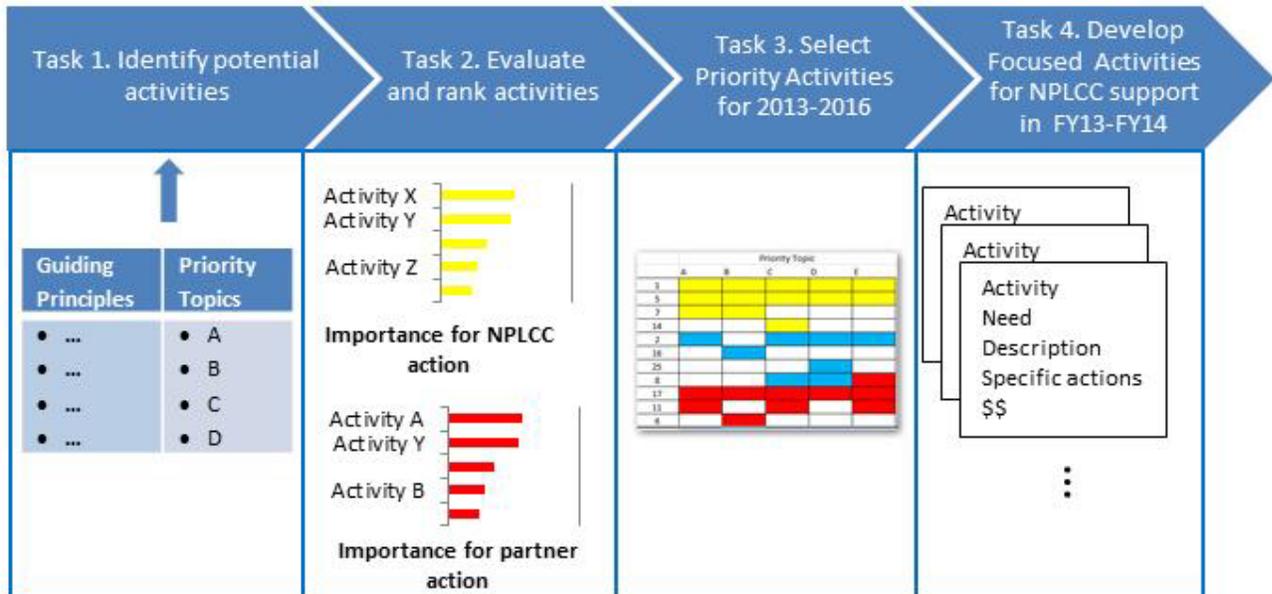


Figure 1: Process used to develop implementation priorities.

Mary reviewed comments received on the Implementation Plan from Committee members. She outlined the specific comments and how the S-TEK Subcommittee proposed to respond to the comments (see presentation for full discussion of comments and responses).

Mary also discussed how the Implementation Plan would be used in 2014 and beyond. She highlighted that for 2014 the S-TEK Subcommittee would determine if changes need to be made to proposed focused activities and specific actions. In this process, the NPLCC would coordinate with partners to identify potential projects to fund jointly. For 2015 to 2016, the S-TEK Subcommittee would discuss the results of the 2012 and 2013 funded projects and revisit the overall list of potential activities and make changes if necessary. Then they would identify a new list of focused activities and specific actions.

Frank gave an overview of the proposed process for selecting and approving 2013 projects. He explained that the S-TEK Subcommittee would develop two Requests for Proposals and peer-review and evaluate submissions. They would develop a list of recommended projects to fund which would be reviewed by an ad-hoc Steering Committee Team. The Steering Committee would be sent the list of recommended projects and have an opportunity to raise any objections on projects.

Steering Committee Discussion

The following are the key points noted during the Steering Committee discussion:

- Gustavo Bisbal, Northwest Climate Science Center (CSC), requested that the narrative discussing Focused Activity 5 be changed to say “in addition, the NPLCC may choose to fund” rather than “however, the NPLCC may choose to fund.” He felt this better represented the NPLCC’s desire to have flexibility in funding and still ensure their support for joint projects with the CSCs.
 - *Mary agreed and said the change would be made.*
- Preston Hardison, Tribes/First Nations (Washington), said that it is important in the narrative discussing recommended action 4.1 to include best practices along with habitats and species. He explained that discussing habitat and species with tribes requires delicate conversations. Tribes may incur risk when discussing species or habitats of special interest to them and that Tribes may prefer identifying best practices for landscape conservation rather than transferring specific knowledge about habitats or species.
 - Kathleen Sloan, Tribes/First Nations (California), agreed with Preston and said that Tribes are increasingly inundated with interest for TEK. It is important for the NPLCC to understand that TEK is a different knowledge system than Western science and that it will be important to respect the proprietary nature of TEK.
 - Eric Morrison, Tribes/First Nations (Alaska), explained that in Alaska, Tribes are also interested in getting access to Western science to use in their management. He hopes that working with the NPLCC will allow Tribes to share TEK, where appropriate, as well as access additional scientific information.
 - *Mary explained that the NPLCC recognizes the sensitivity around TEK. The NPLCC respects tribal knowledge and will use TEK when and where it is provided willingly by Tribes.*
- The Committee asked if the proposed funding levels for potential actions could be redistributed once specific projects were identified.

- *Mary said that funding levels could be redistributed depending on what projects are submitted under the Request for Proposals. Frank added that with budget uncertainty there will need to be flexibility in deciding how funding is distributed.*
- Gustavo Bisbal expressed his excitement that the NPLCC is moving forward with identifying specific actions and activities to fund in the next four years. However, he was concerned with the inclusion of Table 1 in the Implementation Plan which lists identified priority activities for 2013 to 2016. He was concerned that the table set a precedent and created inflexibility for the NPLCC to adapt to new and emerging activities. He expects that the issues and activities included in the table will need to change rapidly and often. Additionally, he felt that there should not be any empty cells in the table as various partners are working on these topics.
 - *Frank explained that the concept for Table 1 was not to describe a list of all possible collaborative activities the NPLCC could pursue. Instead, the table describes the ranking process the S-TEK Subcommittee used to identify key priorities for the Implementation Plan. The table reflects the votes by the Subcommittee. Frank explained that they could rename the table to better indicate that it reflects the voting of the Subcommittee.*
 - Bill Hansen, US Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska Region), a member of the S-TEK Subcommittee, added that the Subcommittee understood the importance of flexibility and adapting to changing circumstances. The Implementation Plan allows for flexibility in its review of priority actions each year and the need to re-examine the list of priority activities for 2015-2016.

DECISION POINT: The Committee approved the Implementation Plan for the S-TEK Strategy 2013-2016 with the edits discussed.

DECISION POINT: The Committee approved the proposed process for identifying and selecting specific projects to fund in 2013.

2013 Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

John Mankowski said that dates have been set for the remainder of the Steering Committee meetings in 2013. The meeting schedule is:

- May 28 (webinar)
- September 10-12 (in-person, British Columbia – see note below that this date may change)
- October 23 (webinar)
- December 10-11 (in-person, Portland)

John explained that he has heard there is a Tribal conference that overlaps the September meeting dates and he will identify if those dates need to change. He recognized that with budget uncertainty it is difficult to know about the possibility of travel for the in-person meetings but suggested that people plan on attending for now and if need be the in-person meetings could be offered as virtual meetings.

Rory Annett provided information on options for the September in-person meeting in British Columbia. He outlined three options for the meeting:

1. [Hakai Institute](#) –The institute is located in pristine marine/coastal environment and would allow an opportunity to have conversations with local First Nations.
2. [Cowichan Research Center](#) – The center is located on Vancouver Island and is a center of forest-based research in British Columbia.
3. Have the meeting in a major city, most likely Vancouver, which would not allow the same access to natural environments but may provide more access to British Columbia researchers and managers.

Steering Committee Discussion

The following are the key points noted during the Steering Committee discussion:

- Several Committee members discussed the difficulty of securing travel funding. Some agencies have severely limited travel and it may be difficult to get approval to travel to Canada. Members hoped that travel restrictions would be removed but it is uncertain if that will occur.
- James Partain, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Regional Climate), suggested looking at Victoria as an alternate to having the meeting in Vancouver.

ACTION ITEM: EnviroIssues will send a poll to the Steering Committee asking them to indicate their preference for one of the three options identified for the British Columbia Steering Committee meeting in September.

Next Steps

Penny Mabie reviewed potential topics for the May 28th Steering Committee webinar:

- Updates on contracts for FY2013
- Communications and Outreach Strategy
- Partnership Liaison Subcommittee Strategy
- (Potential) Update on the convening of the Tribal/First Nations Committee.

Penny Mabie identified the following action items from the meeting:

- Mary Mahaffy will work with Tom Miewald to provide additional information on data management best practices to the Committee.
- Mary Mahaffy and the S-TEK Subcommittee will finalize the Implementation Plan for S-TEK Strategy 2013-2016 and begin developing the Request for Proposals.
- John Mankowski will finalize the dates for the September Steering Committee meeting in British Columbia.

- EnviroIssues will send a poll to the Steering Committee asking them to indicate their preference for one of the three options identified for the British Columbia Steering Committee meeting in September.

Closing Remarks

John Mankowski and Rory Annett thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Draft Implementation Plan for the NPLCC S-TEK Strategy, 2013-2016

Attachment 2: Draft S-TEK Strategy Implementation Plan Presentation

Attendees

Steering Committee Members and Alternates

Rory Annett	British Columbia – <i>Steering Committee Co-Chair</i>
Gustavo Bisbal	Northwest Climate Science Center
Dave Brittell	State of Washington
Stephen Gray	Alaska Climate Science Center
Bill Hanson	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska Region)
Preston Hardison	Tribes/First Nations (Washington)
Keith Hatch	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Lynn Helbrecht	State of Washington
Rick Kearney	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Pacific SW Region)
Stephen Jackson	Southwest Climate Science Center
Joyce Kelly	US Environmental Protection Agency (Pacific Northwest Region)
Eric Morrison	Tribes/First Nations (Alaska)
Bruce Newton	USDA National Resources Conservation Service (West Region NTSC)
Wayne Owen	US Forest Service (PNW Research Station – Alaska)
James Partain	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Regional Climate)
Terry Rabot	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Pacific Region)
Sue Rodman	State of Alaska
Frank Shipley	US Geological Survey (Pacific Northwest)
Kathleen Sloan	Tribes/First Nations (California)
Barry Smith	Canadian Wildlife Service (Pacific/Yukon Region)
Lyman Thorsteinson	US Geological Survey (Alaska)
Chris Tunnoch	British Columbia
Sara Wesser	National Park Service (Alaska)

Others in Attendance

Karen Jenni	Insight Decisions
John Mankowski	NPLCC Coordinator
Mary Mahaffy	NPLCC Science Coordinator
Penny Mabie	EnviroIssues
Daniel Brody	EnviroIssues

Steering Committee Members Absent and Not Represented by an Alternate

Brett Brownscombe	State of Oregon
Tom Dwyer	Pacific Coast Joint Venture (US)
Armand Gonzales	State of California
Chip Jenkins	National Park Service (Seattle)
Mark Johnson	Bureau of Land Management (Portland)
Karen Kelleher	Bureau of Land Management (Anchorage)
Madeline Maley	British Columbia
Tasha Sargent	Pacific Coast Joint Venture (Canada)
Barry Thom	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Fisheries)
Jeff Walter	US Forest Service (Pacific Northwest Region)