

Draft Meeting Notes  
LCR MSCP Steering Committee April 23, 2008

Attending

|                  |                |                    |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| George Caan      | Dave Weedman   | Jerry Zimmerman    |
| John Swett       | Brian Young    | Chris Harris       |
| Sara Price       | Bill Werner    | Michael Clinton    |
| Wade Noble       | Tom Burke      | Michael Gazda      |
| Chuck Cullom     | Jed Blake      | Glen Gould         |
| Dana Medlock     | Gera Ashton    | Lesley Fitzpatrick |
| Larry Purcell    | Monica Swartz  | Nathan Lenon       |
| Michel Remington | Gary Hansen    | Linda Carbone      |
| Anthony Miller   | Laura Vecerina | Eileen Wynkoop     |
| Bill Davis       | Laura Simonek  |                    |

Attending Via Conference Call

Fred Worthley  
Troy Smith  
Kerry Christensen  
David Brownlee  
Chris Hayes

**1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:45 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 October 24, 2007 Meeting Notes

The October 24, 2007 Meeting Notes were approved. (Moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Chuck Cullom, and adopted by consensus.)

## Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

George Caan announced that he and Bill Werner were willing to serve an additional term as Chair and Vice Chair of the Steering Committee and then opened up the topic for discussion. Larry Purcell made a motion to re-elect George and Bill. The motion was seconded by Wade Noble. Hearing no opposition, the motion was approved.

George Caan presented Glen Gould with a plaque on behalf of the Steering Committee with thanks for all of his work. Glen's retirement date is April 26.

## **2. WORK PLANS AND BUDGET**

### FY2007 Accomplishments

Laura Vecerina provided an overview of FY07 MSCP financial accomplishments. She noted that the approved FY07 accomplishment was \$16,446,196 and actual accomplishment was \$16,701,645. She indicated that the Steering Committee had approved securing the land and water for the Cibola Valley Conservation Area and Reclamation was able to fund more than had been budgeted. She also reviewed the FY07 costs by work plan category. Each of the group managers, Tom Burke, John Swett, and Nathan Lenon (for Terry Murphy) gave presentations on accomplishments in FY07 for their specific program areas (power point presentations are posted with meeting materials)

### FY2008 Program and Financial Status and FY2008 Contributions

Laura Vecerina reviewed the FY08 financial accomplishment to date. Jed Blake reported that all 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter contributions had been received and existing habitat maintenance funds had been deposited.

### Draft FY2009 Work Plan and Budget

Laura Vecerina presented a FY09 Work Plan and Budget of \$18,822,780. This includes \$605,000 towards the Existing Habitat Maintenance. She provided preliminary state financial contributions and indicated that they would be finalized in May. She stated a work group meeting would be held on May 14 and 15 at Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) in Phoenix, Arizona to go over the proposed work plan in more detail and accept comments.

## **3. PROJECT UPDATES**

### Planet Ranch

Laura Vecerina provided an update on the feasibility of securing Planet Ranch for MSCP purposes. She indicated that Reclamation has been in discussions with Freeport McMoran Corporation which currently holds the option to buy Planet Ranch from the City of Scottsdale. To determine the feasibility of securing Planet Ranch, a federal appraisal is needed. This is currently being done and should be available by the end of June. Reclamation has also been

working on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Freeport which would lay out the steps necessary for moving forward with securing the property. The MOA does not commit the MSCP to this property but lays out the conditions for the project to move forward. Reclamation will evaluate the costs for securing the property and potential habitat credit and if feasible would bring a land and water resolution to the Steering Committee for approval.

#### Status of RFP

John Swett stated that proposals for potential areas for honey mesquite in California, flat-tailed horned lizard and desert tortoise habitat protection have been received and are in the process of evaluation, which includes site visits to determine preliminary feasibility. Bill Werner asked how many proposals were received. Jed Blake stated a total of four were received, none for honey mesquite, three for the flat-tailed horned lizard, and one for the desert tortoise.

#### **4. PROCESS UPDATES**

##### Status of 5-year Research and Monitoring priorities

John Swett discussed the status of the draft Five-Year Monitoring and Research Report. The draft report was presented about one year ago and a lot of comments were received. A revised draft report was then prepared. John thanked Lesley Fitzpatrick for her assistance. The revised draft report is posted and comments are due by the end of May.

##### Land and Water Funding Strategies

Laura Vecerina stated that there had been a work group conference call in April to look at strategies for funding land and water purchases. Based on Table 7-1 in the HCP, only a certain amount is allocated for land and water each year. Because land and water purchases may occur less frequently and may be more than the budgeted amount, a mechanism is needed to set aside funding. Laura indicated that the work group favored creating a separate land and water subaccount within each of the State's funding accounts. Reclamation would use funding in these accounts when needed. Laura indicated that she is drafting a program decision document (PDD) which would lay out a process. The draft PDD will go back to the work group for review and then to the Steering Committee in October.

#### **5. STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE**

A work group meeting is scheduled for May 14-15, 2008, at ADWR in Phoenix, Arizona, to review the Draft FY2009 Work Plan and budget.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be a conference call at 9:00 a.m., on June 25, 2008.

## **6. GENERAL INFORMATION**

George Caan provided an update of the status of legislation in Congress. HR 2515 passed the House of Representatives March 2008. It has not yet passed the Senate.

Laura Vecerina stated that Reclamation submitted the FWS Refuge Managers on the Colorado River for the Secretary's Cooperative Conservation Award for their partnership work with the LCR MSCP. They won the award and are back in Washington D.C. to accept and attend a partnership conference. Terry Murphy is accepting the award on behalf of Reclamation.

Laura also requested that everyone review the current Steering Committee Voting list for accuracy and submit changes to us. Once updated, the list will be posted on the web.

George Caan stated he has spoken with Lorri Gray regarding the hiring of a new LCR MSCP Program Manager. Lorri told him they have received a significant number of applications and they are in the process of narrowing the list down. No date has been set yet for interviews. Terry Fulp will be the hiring manager.

## **7. SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS**

George Caan summarized the meeting and asked for any comments. There were no comments.

## **8. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.