

APPALACHIAN LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

Executive Subcommittee of the Steering Committee

AGENDA

1 p.m., July 13, 2015

Rm IE-101, National Conservation and Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV.

Agenda:

- ❖ LCC budget review
- ❖ Review of funded projects
- ❖ Strengthening the partnership
- ❖ Nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair and Subcommittee membership
- ❖ WMI administrative issues
- ❖ LCC staff performance evaluations - Executive Subcommittee role?

Meeting Notes:

- ❖ LCC budget review
 - Ken Elowe provided an overview of the FY16 budget activities. House and Senate versions of the budget suggest a ~50% reduction in LCC funding. Senate, which in the past restored House cuts, indicated other programs within the USFWS are a higher priority. All indications are that the Congress will not pass a budget this summer and likely will go into a CR. At present and at best it looks like the budget will be flat this coming year.
 - Questions was posed: if this lower funding goes through, how might the FWS divide LCC funding? Response was that no decisions have been made at this point. SA ARDs are discussing some options...minimize spending in areas where LCCs are controversial, delineate boundaries and allocate at state levels within LCCs, focus where there is political support, focus where there is high vulnerability, high threats, where there is good support for LCC work, etc.

- It was noted that a 50% budget reduction likely will affect LCC staffing levels.
- It was suggested that the LCC Council might want to address funding disparities between LCCs, and possibly where there are geographical disputes.
- It was noted that the LCCs are a line item budget.
- Discussion ensued re: AppLCC Budget. It was suggested that the LCC consider where we are with funding, what we've done and what it will cost to extend current work, then compare with new opportunities, and show where new work fits in the Needs Assessment.
- ❖ Review of funded projects – overview and discussion of current projects
- ❖ Cost sharing LCC priority work – reviewed charts showing funding leveraged by LCCs
- ❖ Strengthening the partnership – SC membership & ideas for reorganization
 - We wrestled with getting more SC partner participation and attendance, and engaging policy/administrator level positions on the SC.
 - Jean outlined some ideas for reorganization that would create a LCC technical advisory team and more clearly differentiate between steering committee members and technical experts in the partner organization.
 - ExComm members were not supportive of the LCC differentiating or labeling partner participants.
 - We need to keep reaching out to partners to engage them in the LCC conversation.
- ❖ Nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair and Subcommittee membership
 - No nominations were received from the Steering Committee.
 - It was suggested that we need staggered terms for chair and vice-chair.
 - Suggestions for nominations...Clyde Thompson, Gwen Brewer, Ginny Kreitler, Perry Wheelock
 - Gwen Brewer indicated she might be willing to be vice chair
 - Clyde Thompson expressed concern about adding work assignments.
- ❖ WMI administrative issues

- Discussed the issue of conflict of interest, which will be discussed with the entire SC on Wednesday.
- ❖ LCC staff performance evaluations - Executive Subcommittee role?
 - This issues was discussed by SC members with Ken Elowe.
 - Cal DuBrock, serving under a WMI contract as Acting Coordinator announced resignation effective mid-Aug (to take on a policy job with PSU).

HO-02

Jean suggests...

1) Only Sr Leadership for an Organization have a vote

-- Why: it might encourage them to show up (if they don't, the Jr. members wouldn't delay SC decisions etc.)

2) Create a new group -- that we can call **LCD** (Landscape Conservation Design) **Practitioners** -- and these are the folks that can give substantive on-the-ground recommendations. This is more of a technical advisory team.

--Why: for those organizations whose Sr. Leadership don't show up, they can at least contribute talent via Jr. staff participation in this Technical needs. This group will be critically important as the LCC transitions to its new role in helping to facilitate a Landscape Conservation Design (product & process) as these will be the major folks to make recommendations in project design and location.

See attached reorganization.