

**HABITAT CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)  
Regular meeting July 22, 2008

The regular meeting of the Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee (HCAC) was held  
at the Washington City Council Chambers on July 22, 2008.

Committee Members present were:

Chris Blake, Vice Chairman	Environmental Organization
Marc Mortensen	Citizen-at-Large
Jeff Morby	Local Development
Larry Crist	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Reed Harris	Utah Dept. of Natural Resources (UDNR)
Todd Christensen	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Bill Mader, Administrator	Washington County – HCP

Absent and excused:

Karl Wilson, Chairman	Mayors Association
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Also present were:

Alan Gardner	Washington County Commissioner
Bob Sandberg	Washington County – HCP
Tom Webster	Washington County – HCP
Brad Young	Washington County – HCP
Mike Empey	Field Representative for Congressman Jim Matheson

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Chris Blake noted that at least five committee members were present and a quorum existed. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. Chairman Wilson's absence was excused.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **Approval of agenda**
- b. **Review and approve minutes**
  - 1. June 24, 2008 – work meeting and regular meeting minutes

One correction was made the work meeting minutes:

**(page 5, paragraph 6, sentence 1):**  
Correct the spelling of "Keyenta" to "Kayenta."

**MOTION** by Marc Mortensen to approve the Consent Agenda.  
Seconded by Todd Christensen.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote was taken: All voted aye.  
Motion passed.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**4. UTILITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVIEWS**

None.

**5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**a. Initiatives to acquire ELT properties (HCAC)**

Todd Christensen commented that the process to acquire the ELT properties is ongoing. Todd added that there is one problem with a small transfer that they are working on for the ELT properties. They are inquiring if the bankruptcy court will accept title. Todd added that the land bill (Washington County Growth & Conservation Act of 2008) will allow more options.

**b. Draft 2009 budget (HCAC)**

Chris explained there was a work meeting earlier today to work on the 2009 budget. Chris said that the HCAC is going to propose a draft budget similar to the current budget with minor changes.

Bill will make the changes suggested in the work meeting and submit a draft budget to the committee at the August 26, 2008, regular meeting.

**c. Scope of work projects (HCAC)**

Chris asked if there were any projects ready to be formalized or assigned. One of the priority projects is fire prevention and suppression. Chris noted there will be a presentation on this subject next month. Larry tentatively nominated Renee Chi for this project, but quickly added that she has other additional priorities that she is working on.

Scope of work projects will be a standing agenda item with project progress reports expected.

**d. Quarterly Report (Bill Mader)**

There were no questions regarding the report at this meeting. Review and approval of the report will be an agenda item next meeting. Chris noted that the Sheriff's Office report is included.

**e. Land Acquisition Report (HCAC)**

Neither Bill nor Larry was aware of anything new.

**f. Status of Red Hills Parkway Expansion (HCAC)**

Larry said that Renee had told her that the consultant is submitting the Biological Assessment (BA). Larry also commented on a land exchange between the State (Parks) and the City of St. George, but this will not affect to the reserve.

**g. Discuss Technical Committee membership (HCAC)**

Bill led the discussion. Committee members were referred to Exhibit 5-g-1 HCAC 072208 – which specifies Technical Committee membership. Bill explained that the Technical Committee membership includes someone from USGS, which made sense years ago when they had an office here in St. George. But since the office is no longer here the member does not participate in Technical Committee meetings either by conference call or by presence.

The options are to refill the position with someone from another organization or continue with the risk that there may not be a quorum, or change the membership and/or the quorum size.

Larry suggested contacting the USGS and offer one last chance to participate and if not, remove them from the Technical Committee membership – which would require a minor amendment to the HCP.

Chris called for any questions or motions.

**MOTION** by Larry Crist to contact the USGS and determine if they have an interest in participating on a regular basis, and if not, make a minor amendment to the HCP and remove them from the Technical Committee.

Seconded by Todd Christensen.

Discussion: None

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

**h. Discussion of a natural history museum (HCAC)**

Bill explained there is a trip planned for August 27, 2008, to inspect and tour the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, Arizona.

Bill, just to start the discussion, related his vision of a living museum with the theme being, *Predators of the Southwest*. Chris added that the point of the discussion was to narrow the focus of the vision of a living museum/visitors center.

Reed asked about the size of the area needed for the museum. Bill answered that the footprint would fit within the area that is being considered at the Dino Cliffs.

The members will know more after the tour, and they'll have more questions at the September meeting.

**i. Administrator's Report (Bill Mader)**

**1. Meetings with Mayors**

Bill reported that he continues to have meetings with local mayors. So far this year he has met with almost every mayor in the valley. His most recent meetings were with Mayor Terrill Clove of Washington City and Mayor Tom Hirschi of Hurricane. Both meetings were very fruitful. In the meeting with Mayor Hirschi, the Mayor saw no problems with using local ponds as a water source for fire suppression.

**2. New Administration Building**

Bill explained that he and Todd briefly discussed the idea of having an administration building near Mile Post 13. Futuristically, the building could house staff from multiple agencies, such as HCP, BLM and SITLA.

**3. Buckskin Wash**

Jeff asked if there was anything new on Buckskin Wash. Bill said that he wasn't aware of anything, but he'll contact Stacy Young.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**a. Color Country Natural Resource Camp (Bill Mader)**

Exhibit 6-a-1 HCAC 072208 was introduced. Bill referred the discussion to Tom Webster. Tom explained the organization has been in existence for 15 years. The organization focuses on, and benefits, high school students. Their emphasis is on natural resources, education and planning. Tom recommended a sponsorship contribution by the HCP of \$1,001.00.

Chris asked if there was the availability of an intern from the program. Tom explained that it is possible, depending on budget.

Chris asked if \$1,001.00 is sufficient. It was agreed that it is and that it could come from this year's budget.

**MOTION** by Larry Crist to make a sponsorship donation of \$1,001.00 to the Color Country Natural Resource Camp.

Seconded by Jeff Morby.

Discussion: Funds to be taken from a budget line item to be determined by HCP staff.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

**b. Next meeting date(s)**

1. August 26, 2008
  - a. Work meeting at 9:30 A.M.  
Subjects: grazing, reseeding and a land bill update
  - b. Regular meeting at 1:00 P.M.
  
2. August 27, 2008  
Field trip to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

**7. ADJOURN**

There was no other business to discuss.

**MOTION** by Marc Mortensen to adjourn.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 P.M.

Minutes prepared by Brad Young.