

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
April 10, 2008**

A Meeting of the Technical Committee of the HCP was held April 10, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room at the Washington County Office, 197 E. Tabernacle St.

The views expressed at this, or any other, Technical Committee Meeting do not necessarily represent the positions or views of any particular federal, state or local governmental agency, division or department. They are solely the opinions of the individual members of this Technical Committee.

Technical Committee Members present were:

Kristen Comella	Snow Canyon State Park
Renee Chi	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Bob Douglas	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Ann McLuckie	Utah Div. of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)

Technical Committee Members absent were:

Bill Mader	Washington County HCP
Marshall Topham	Local Biologist
Todd Esque	USGS Biological Resources Division

Others present were:

Brad Young, Recorder	Washington County HCP
Tom Webster	Washington County HCP
Lynne Scott	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Stacy Young	<i>The Trails</i> developer (SCAT Ltd.)

(1) CALL TO ORDER

It was noted there were at least four voting members present, a quorum existed and the meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m.

(2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Minutes from the meeting of February 13, 2008, were reviewed and the following changes or corrections were made:

(page 3, paragraph 2, sentence 4): changed,

From: "... tail ..."

To: "... trail ..."

(page 3, paragraph 5, sentence 3): changed,

From: "... met ..."

To: "... meet ..."

(page 4, paragraph 1) : changed,

From: "... meters ..."

To: "... feet ..."

(page 4, paragraph 5, sentence 5): changed,

From: "Ann argued that in a minor boundary adjustment there must clearly be no negative impact to the tortoises, and if there are biological impacts it is not a minor adjustment and cannot be approved by the HCAC only."

To: "Ann argued that in a minor boundary adjustment there must clearly be no negative impact to the tortoises, and no loss of habitat, and if there are biological impacts it is not a minor adjustment and cannot be approved by the HCAC only."

(page 5, paragraph 3, sentence 4): changed,

From: "... must ..."

To: "... should ..."

(page 5, paragraph 5, sentence 6): changed,

From: "... adjustment ..."

To: "... amendment ..."

(page 7, paragraph 4, sentence 2): changed,

From: "Marshall said that the essentially, the areas are cleared right now."

To: "Marshall said that essentially, the areas are cleared right now."

(page 7, paragraph 6, sentence 2): changed,

From: "... thy ..."

To: "... they ..."

(page 8, paragraph 1, sentence 2): changed,

From: "Bill added that this new and better boundary so we should take the opportunity to put up permanent low-profile fencing."

To: "Bill added that this is a new and better boundary so we should take the opportunity to put up permanent low-profile fencing."

b. Minutes from the meeting of March 20, 2008, were reviewed and the following changes or corrections were made:

(page 2, paragraph 4, sentence 5): changed,

From: "... The ..."

To: "... Bill's ..."

(page 3, paragraph 1, sentence 6): changed,

From: "Bob asked that the pipeline be upgraded in stages."

To: "Bob asked that the pipeline be upgraded in stages to minimize open trenches."

(page 3, paragraph 1, sentence 7): changed,

From: "Lester said that they'd do it in 200' sections."

To: "Lester said that they are required to do it in 200' sections."

(page 3, paragraph 2, sentence 7): changed,

From: "Ann said that she will bring the document."

To: "Ann said that she will bring the MOG document."

(page 3, paragraph 3, sentence 2): changed,

From: "The priority sites are:"

To: "Kristen said that the TC had previously prioritized the sites, which are:"

(page 7, paragraph 3): changed,

From: "a. Ivins Retention Dam"

To: "a. Eagle Rock Drainage issue"

There were no further changes or corrections.

MOTION by Ann McLuckie, second by Renee Chi to:

Approve the minutes of the meetings of February 13, 2008, and March 20, 2008, as corrected.

There was no discussion, vote was taken and the motion was unanimously passed.

(3) GENERAL BUSINESS

a. **Assignment #102307 – Washington City/Coral Canyon Water Tank – Mitigation exercise**

Kristen led the discussion while Ann tabulated the values for the various categories of habitat impact defined and described in the MOG document. The tabulations are shown in table form at the bottom of page 4.

Compensation rate = C + T + E + G + A

C = Category of habitat (habitat with the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve = 3).

I = Term of effect - Permanent or long term (>10 years): tank site, fenced-in area and spur road to the tank.
Temporary or short term (<10 years): Rip-rapped overflow area, staging areas, turnouts off of the main road and four feet of expansion beyond the existing road (16' to 20').

E = Existing disturbance on site.

G = Growth inducing effects.

A = Adjacent habitat impacts.

Kristen pointed out that the .63 acres of permanently impacted habitat at the tank site does not include the spur road to the tank. The final calculation of permanently impacted area must include the new spur road because this is lost habitat. Bob said that an environmental assessment (EA) must be done by the consultant and that they will have to separate the permanently disturbed areas from the temporarily disturbed areas.

The committee members also discussed the disturbed areas and will the rehabilitation and revegetation take more or less than ten years? Bob expressed confidence that the sandy soils in this area will revegetate in much less than ten years. He explained that these soils are different and unique from those in other areas of tortoise habitat (i.e. California).

The committee discussed the type and degree of the existing disturbance at the site and determined a value of one (1). They also discussed and evaluated potential growth inducing effects. Bob said that the Reserve is a closed unit and this proposed project will have little or no effect. Kristen added that recreation in the area will not be changed. Lastly, the committee members evaluated the direct or indirect impact to adjacent habitat. The members determined that there would be minimal impact by increased maintenance vehicles, as long as the gate(s) at the bottom remain closed.

The tabulated results are shown below:

Category	Category of habitat	Term of effect	Existing disturbance	Growth inducing effect	Adjacent habitat impacts	Total
Permanent	3	1	1	0	0	5
Temporary	3	0	1	0	0	4

Bob clarified that compensation for areas temporarily disturbed will be restoration of areas in Zone 3 and compensation for areas permanently disturbed will be by mitigation acres. Kristen calculated that the replacement acres will amount to 3.15 acres at least (.63 X 5 = 3.15).

Kristen noted that for the Red Hills Parkway expansion project, the mitigation needs to be discussed. Renee said that there wasn't much temporary disturbance, and the final mitigation acreages haven't been determined yet because the biological assessment hasn't been completed and submitted. She added that the City of St. George has acquired a parcel (for compensation), but it hasn't been fully evaluated and a proposal has not been submitted.

Kristen led a brief discussion on prioritizing replacement mitigation acres for the Washington City/Coral Canyon water tank. It was discussed that Mill Creek and Grapevine each need trailhead and parking areas – probably less than two acres for each. Bob added that maybe only one acre for Mill Creek, and added a suggestion that perhaps mitigation could be done in two or three parcels.

Kristen summarized that for now, no further recommendation is required other than providing the ratio numbers (5 for permanent and 4 for temporary) to Washington City.

(4) OTHER BUSINESS

a. Next meeting dates were set as follows:

Thursday, May 8, 2008 @ 9:30 AM,
Thursday, June 12, 2008 @ 9:30 AM,
Thursday, July 3, 2008 (tentative).

b. Application for right-of-way at the substation expansion

Ann said that she had received an application for a right of way. Bob said that it is the same one as for the substation and power line expansion. He explained that he has talked to Kathy and that they have issued a right of way and a biological opinion – it was just Phase II of that substation. Bob added that they (contractor) will work on the Forest Service (property) first and move into the Reserve after December 1st. Renee explained that this must be the same project that Greg Brown was contacted about and they are still being required remove the poles by helicopter. Bob stated that we still want to go with the original proposal. Ann asked what kind of documents they had to submit? Bob said that they submitted an environmental assessment. He added that there is a federal nexus, so the federal entities will have done all the paperwork. Ann added that she needs to send the EA to the State right-of-way officer in Salt Lake City so they can process their paperwork. She'll call Greg Brown to make sure everything is covered.

c. **Assignment #010407 – Buckskin Wash Trail – Field trip**

Kristen said that the field trip today will be for the purpose of inspecting the west rim of Buckskin Wash. She described the possibility of a realigned boundary northerly from the State Park property up through *The Trails* subdivision and coming out at the north end. Bob suggesting taking some flagging tape to make a possible line – that may be officially surveyed later by an engineer.

The meeting concluded at 10:31 AM with the members departing for the field trip. Participants in the field trip were: Kristen Comella, Renee Chi, Bob Douglas, Ann McLuckie, Tom Webster, Lynne Scott, and Stacy Young.

Minutes prepared by Brad Young