

# HABITAT CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A **regular meeting** of the Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee (HCAC) was held at the Washington City Council Chambers on **August 27, 2013**.

Committee members present were:

Karl Wilson, Chairman	Mayors Association
Chris Blake, Vice Chairman	Environmental Organization
Marc Mortensen	Citizen-at-Large
Bob Sandberg	HCP Administrator
Henry Maddux	Utah Dept. of Natural Resources (UDNR)
Jimmy Tyree	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Larry Crist	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Absent and Excused:

Chris Hart	Local Development
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Also present were:

Amber Stocks	Washington County HCP – Recorder
Cameron Rognan	Washington County HCP – Biologist
Alan Gardner	Washington County Commissioner
Ann McLuckie	Technical Committee Chairman (DWR)
Gary Webster	Congressman Chris Stewart’s Office
William Swadley	Senator Orrin Hatch’s Office
Ellen Schunk	Senator Mike Lee’s Office
Jodi Borgeson	Washington County Attorney’s Office
LeAnn Skzrynski	Citizens for Dixie’s Future
Ashley Gilreath	Citizens for Dixie’s Future
Mike Small	Citizens for Dixie’s Future
Lisa Rutherford	Citizen
Myron Lee	Dixie Metropolitan Planning Office

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Karl Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. noting that a quorum was present.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting routine matters which come before the committee for approval. The consent portion of the agenda is approved by one (1) non-debatable motion. If any member wishes to remove an item from the consent portion of the agenda, then that item becomes the first order of business on the regular agenda.

- a. Approval of Agenda**
- b. Review and Approve Regular Meeting Minutes**
  1. July 23, 2013
- c. Next Meeting Date**

1. September 24, 2013
- d. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

**MOTION** by Chris Blake to approve the consent agenda.  
Seconded by Marc Mortensen.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote was taken: All voted aye.  
Motion passed.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

- a. None

4. **UTILITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

- a. None

5. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- a. **HCP Review and Renewal Update (Larry Crist)**

Larry Crist reported that he met with County personnel to review their comments. Currently the FWS is understaffed and no specific person has been assigned to work on this HCP review. Additional comments can be submitted since no firm deadline has been established. Chris Blake asked if this HCP can be renewed by amending the expiration date. Larry answered the HCP coordinator, Amelia Orton-Palmer, feels that may not be a possibility; there may be some other things that need to be worked through.

- b. **Land acquisition Update (Jimmy Tyree)**

Jimmy Tyree informed the HCAC that the Brennan property acquisition is completed and the BLM is working on finishing up the donation for the Carter property. Mr. Brennan and Mr. Carter seem pleased with the progress made from the Land and Water Conservation Fund support.

- c. **Proposed 2014 Budget Discussion and Possible Action (Bob Sandberg)**

Bob Sandberg showed exhibit 5-c-1, the proposed HCP budget for 2014. The regular budget is set up to cover all necessary expenses to keep the HCP doors open and meet commitments. The contingency portion of the budget is set up for things that come up such as fire suppression, reseeding, potential land acquisitions, etc. and the money can be spent without reopening the budget.

An additional \$1,600,000 has been added to the contingency budget to help with land acquisition. The HCP has been awarded a Section 6 grant from the USFWS with a

stipulation that the acquisition needs to be complete before reimbursement is given.

The 2013 budget was \$869,000 and the 2014 budget is \$872,000. The increase is to help fund tortoise care, line 433-000. This increase will help the DWR with the tortoise adoption program. Those people who adopt ELISA positive animals will have vet care available to them for antibiotics (for the first year). Henry Maddux would like to see a proposal from the DWR before the HCP contributes to the program. Ann McLuckie explained that the adoption program is run through the Salt Lake office who wants to expand and include ELISA positive and suspect tortoises. This would remove tortoises from the Temporary Care Facility that have been there for many years and would most likely be a continued expense on an as-needed basis. Bob added that the money will come from the contingency budget and does not need to be spent until we are comfortable with it. Henry's concern is that one person has the potential to significantly drain the funds if they go to the vet continuously.

**MOTION** by Chris Blake to forward this proposed budget to the County Commissioners as our budget proposal for next year, noting that we would like to see the side boards on the contingency for veterinary care.

Seconded by Larry Crist.

Discussion: Marc Mortensen asked for clarification with item 436 (seeding and fire prevention) and item 337 (fire restoration and rehabilitation). Bob explained that line item 436 used to be called Road Seeding, and was a carryover from when the HCP was initiated and rehabilitation work was done on old roads. It is now used to do fire pre-suppression work like goat grazing and weed whacking. It is also used to help with studies for rehabilitation type activities and potential seeding. Item 337 is for monitoring of restoration projects. Both line items do similar work but are different.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

**d. Discussion and Possible Action on 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report**

**MOTION** by Chris Blake to accept the 2013, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report.

Seconded by Marc Mortensen.

Discussion: none.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

**e. Discussion and Possible Action on Meeting Time Change**

The committee discussed the possibility of changing the meeting times but decided to leave the meeting times as is unless something else comes up.

**f. Administrator's Report (Bob Sandberg)**

Approved HCAC Meeting Minutes – August 27, 2013

## 1. HCP revenues and expenditures report

Bob Sandberg showed exhibit 5-f-1, the revenues and expenditures report which shows that the HCP has more revenues than expenses. This is the first time in several years that revenues have exceeded expenses by this much so early in the year. Henry Maddux felt that the categories in the budget and the report can be hard to reconcile. Bob will try to rectify that, to make the reports more transparent.

## 2. Sec. 6 grant update

Bob reported the HCP staff has been in contact with the UDNR, DWR and FWS regarding the Section 6 grant and what needs to be done. The FWS will send us information and examples for our final submission. Appraisals, surveys, environmental clearances, and everything else involved needs to be done and the property needs to be closed within one year before reimbursement will be given. Bob would like to apply for this grant yearly. As the Administrator, one of the main priorities is to find ways and means to purchase or facilitate trading of private properties out of the Reserve and into public ownership. Bob talked to the Nature Conservancy who will donate money as a match. They are willing to put in the full amount they originally committed or can hold the remainder for another year when the match is needed again. Larry Crist explained the match could come from the state and it could also come from the HCP.

## 3. County fair

HCP staff had a booth at the County Fair this year. The HCP biologist, Cameron Rognan, took some video and pictures which were shown on a TV screen at the fair and received much interest. There were around 40,000 people who attended the fair; at least a few thousand made it to our booth. We feel like our time spent at the fair was very productive and a good opportunity to educate the public.

## 4. Children's museum

The HCP will provide some items to display at the Children's Museum which will open sometime in September. This appears to be a great educational opportunity.

## 6. **PUBLIC COMMENT & REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

This item is reserved for items not listed on this agenda. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this agenda item. (Three minutes per person.)

Chairman Wilson invited the public to comment or request future agenda items. No one came forward and the Chairman moved the agenda.

## 7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chris Blake informed those present that the Virgin River Land Preservation Association

has been in business for 20 years and will celebrate with a birthday party on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in LaVerkin.

**8. ADJOURN**

**MOTION** by Chris Blake to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Marc Mortensen.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.  
Minutes prepared by Amber Stocks.