

# HABITAT CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A **regular meeting** of the Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee (HCAC) was held in the Washington City Council Chambers on **September 23, 2014**.

Committee members present were:

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

Absent and Excused:

John Bramall, Vice Chairman	Mayors Association
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Also present were:

Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP – Recorder
Cameron Rognan	Washington County HCP – Biologist
Alan Gardner	Washington County Commissioner
Jodi Borgeson	Deputy County Attorney
Ann McLuckie	Technical Committee (DWR)
Jack Staub	Agricultural Research Service
Blair Waldron	Agricultural Research Service
Lisa Rutherford	Citizen

## 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Chris Blake 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. **August 26, 2014**

**Page 6, paragraph 5, sentence 1: changed,**

From: "Motion by Henry Maddux to forward the 2015 draft budget to county officials for their review."

To: "Motion by Henry Maddux to forward the 2015 draft budget to county officials for their review and approval."

- c. **Next Meeting Date**
  - 1. **October 28, 2014**
- d. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

**MOTION** by Marc Mortensen to approve the consent agenda and accept the amended minutes.

Seconded by Chris Hart.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

- 3. **PRESENTATIONS**
  - a. Mojave restoration studies – Agricultural Research Service
- 4. **UTILITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**
  - a. **None**
- 5. **GENERAL BUSINESS**
  - a. **Discussion of Mojave Restoration Presentation**

Jack Staub and Blair Waldron from the Agricultural Research Service appeared before the committee and presented exhibit 3-a-1, a PowerPoint describing plant evaluation in the Red Cliff Reserve and Beaver Dam Wash. Jack discussed plant breeding and the cycle in which they perform the plant breeding using, as an example, Prairie June Grass. He also mentioned the predictions in climate change, noting the Mojave Desert will be hotter and drier in the years to come, making the potential for wildfires much larger. The change in temperature and precipitation will also shape the genetic structure of emerging novel ecosystems in the desert. As they are working they are focusing on a collection of species including Big Galleta and Sideoats Grama grass. Jimmy Tyree questioned if they are including plants that are compatible with the tortoise. Jack and Blair answered that, in this initial phase, they are just focusing on what species of plant can be sustained. The phase of looking at the plants in regards to being compatible with the tortoises is yet to come. They are performing quality trials, identifying target species for development based on test performance and breeding. Their overall goal is to improve plant materials and management practices for sustainable stewardship in the western United States.

**b. Land Acquisition update (Bob Sandberg/Jimmy Tyree)**

Bob updated the committee on the cultural survey for the potential exchange parcels on BLM. BYU received the bid and has completed the ground survey portion. They have until December 8<sup>th</sup> to complete and submit all of the reports. They are expected to submit a draft report around November 8<sup>th</sup>, a month before the final report is due. That draft will give BLM and Washington County the opportunity to review, send back with notes, and finalize by the required submission date. Bob reported that everything is on track and where it should be in the process.

**c. Technical Committee Report (Cameron Rognan)**

Cameron noted that the Technical Committee did not meet on the regularly scheduled date of 9-11-14 due to lack of a quorum. Therefore, there were no updates from the Technical Committee.

**d. HCP Administrator's report (Bob Sandberg)**

**1. Flooding and repairs in the Reserve**

Bob reported the recent rains have caused flooding in the reserve and compromised fences. The HCP has been out rectifying what they can. There are inmates scheduled in October to come out and help get fencing back into shape. The flooding has moved a lot of silt, sand, and dirt and washed out fencing more than other recent storms.

**2. Film clip for theaters**

Bob Sandberg showed a clip the HCP has developed to further outreach. It is a 30 second clip showing highlights of the reserve that will play in all movie theaters in St. George for the next five weeks. The purpose of the clip is to educate the public about the reserve so that people will go to the website and show an interest in the reserve. Bob also mentioned how the HCP is working on another video that will include a professional voice over. This second clip is going to be looked at and evaluated further.

**3. Visitor map update**

Cameron Rognan discussed exhibit 5-d-3, which is the new visitor map. He is waiting on the proof, which should arrive within a week, at which point he can approve it and order the new maps. There will be around 3,700 ordered, which stays within budget. He stated this map is a good representation of what trails are on the ground now, and it will be easier to update so that, if a trail changes or is added, he can make the changes quicker and order the next set of maps with any new updates.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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).

Lisa Rutherford spoke to the committee concerning the costs and details for a mural that would be painted on the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve Visitor's Center south wall. She has made contact with a local educator, Justine Peterson, who gave two options for the painting of the mural. Option 1 was to have her and her husband paint the mural. They would examine the area and make a bid including cost of materials and labor. Option 2 is to have Justine and her husband bring in students to complete the project with them. For this option they would only ask for cost of materials. They believe they can complete a mural that depicts the reserve and wildlife for around \$800-\$1000 in materials. Lisa's report also included that the regular maintenance for this mural would run around \$100-\$300. If there is excess maintenance, such as someone defacing the mural, they would be willing to fix it for material cost. It is the consensus that involving students would be a great way to get people involved and aware of the reserve.

## 7. MEMBER REPORTS & REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. UDOT request for endowment funding for White Dome

Bob Sandberg reported that UDOT has requested to come before the committee for possible help to raise funds for an endowment to cover management costs for the White Dome property.

**MOTION** by Henry Maddux to invite UDOT to speak before the committee.  
Seconded by Larry Crist.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote was taken: All voted aye.  
Motion passed.

## 8. ADJOURN

**MOTION** by Chris Hart to adjourn the meeting.  
Seconded by Henry Maddux.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote was taken: All voted aye.  
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.  
Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.