

HABITAT CONSERVATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A regular meeting of the Habitat Conservation Technical Committee (TC) was held in the conference room of the Washington County Administration Building, **May 7, 2015.**

Members present were:

Kristen Comella, Chairperson	Snow Canyon State Park (SCSP)
Cameron Rognan, Vice Chairman	Washington County HCP
Ann McLuckie	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
Tim Croissant	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Nathan Brown	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Marshall Topham	Local Biologist

Also present was:

Bob Sandberg	Washington County HCP Administrator
Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP Recorder
Alan Gardner	Washington County Commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kristen Comella noted a quorum existed and called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. April 9, 2015

Page 3, paragraph 4, sentence 2: changed,

From: “They agreed upon three options for possible trails, which included Routes A, B, and C as shown on amended exhibit 3-b-1.”

To: “They assessed three possible trails, which included Routes A, B, and C as shown on amended exhibit 3-b-1.”

Page 5, paragraph 1, sentence 1: changed,

From: “Motion by Ann Mcluckie to take funding that was potentially allocated to paying for a group of goats and hire a prison crew as well as a trash compacting garbage truck to remove the fuel load along Cottonwood Road.”

To: “Motion by Ann Mcluckie to take funding that was potentially allocated to paying for goats and hire a prison crew as well as a trash compacting garbage truck to remove the fuel load along Cottonwood Road.”

MOTION by Cameron Rognan to approve the amended minutes.
Seconded by Tim Croissant.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Discussion of Quarry Trail alternatives A & B

Kristen questioned if the TC was tasked to look at this again. Cameron answered it was put on the agenda to serve as an update. Bob Sandberg explained the HCAC continued the item on their agenda because Larry Crist wanted to discuss alternatives A & B with Nathan Brown to get a better understanding of habitat impacts. Nathan has not had a chance to talk with Larry yet. Kristen explained that St. George City is concerned about all three route options due to liability, and they were particularly against the TC's preferred Route C due to those concerns. Commissioner Alan Gardner expressed the County's support of a trail to the quarry site. Though the County is supportive of the trail, the City owns the property and will ultimately have to decide what liability they are willing to accept, if any. The TC has made their recommendation, Route C, based on the biological impact and recommended mitigation. It is rare that the HCAC trumps those recommendations, but if they suggest a different alternative the TC will discuss appropriate mitigation.

b. Update on SUU trail restoration project

Cameron mentioned he has been in contact with Briget Eastep from SUU and a few other professors who are helping with the restoration project this summer. Cameron and the SUU group will be meeting on site next Tuesday to discuss the project in more detail. SUU will be back in June to work on the Chuckwalla Trail restoration project.

c. Update and discussion of restoration proposals

Ann McLuckie reported there will be a conference call Wednesday morning the 8th with all the funding sources to discuss an over arching contract for the UNLV seeding project. The conference call is needed to identify all individuals' obligations and to identify where all the seeds will come from to begin the project. Tim mentioned Melissa Sanders at the Las Vegas BLM field office has collected some seeds, and he will get her a list of needed seeds. Ann will forward the conference call information to Bob and Cameron if they are available tomorrow morning to join in on the call.

d. Discussion of 2016 budget process

Bob distributed Exhibit 3-d-1, which is the 2015 draft budget. He would like the TC members to review it and be prepared for discussion in the June meeting. He plans to have the 2016 draft budget to the HCAC for review at the July meeting.

4. OTHER REPORTS FROM TC MEMBERS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Kristen asked what happened to the agenda item that was removed from this month's agenda involving Kirk Willey and access at Diamond Valley. Bob mentioned Mr. Willey has property in Diamond Valley that he would like access across Snow Canyon State Park and the Reserve for a future development he is planning. It dropped off the agenda because Mr. Willey had some issues and would like to be moved to the next TC meeting. Kristen explained Mr. Willey has property off Highway 18 on the east side above Winchester Hills. He can access the property from the north, but he is looking at dual access for safety in anticipation that the city will require another access if he wants to develop that property. Mr. Willey will attend the June TC meeting and more discussions will take place then.

b. Tim mentioned he will be leaving the BLM and moving to Colorado. If the TC reschedules the next meeting to June 18 he will be able to attend, otherwise this will be his last meeting. He and Dawna have discussed sending Lynn Scott to the TC meetings as an interim member to fill in for Tim until another biologist is hired.

c. Tim reported he was trying to find a trash compactor for the tumbleweed issue on Cottonwood Road. Kristen suggested the prison crew could pull the tumbleweed off the fence and into the road. Then, plywood planks could be used to crush the tumbleweed, sweep it up, and put it in bags. Tim said using plywood to break down the tumbleweed is a good idea. Bob said the HCP would keep working on a plan for the dead tumbleweed.

Bob asked if the HCP could hire goats to eat what could be eaten along the fence line. The TC members are okay with that plan as long as the goats stay within the right of way fence and do not go into the Reserve.

d. Nathan noticed projects in Springdale and questioned whether the HCP has received requests for clearances in that area. Cameron has talked to someone there and the project is not yet at the clearance stage. The property is in a take area so once the project is official they will contact Cameron for a clearance. Nathan mentioned there is a second project in the area that is moving forward. He is meeting with the developer today and wanted input on what to require in regards to fencing for the area. Cameron and Ann mentioned they would suggest fencing off the area they are working in to keep tortoises out.

5. NEXT MEETING DATES

a. June 11, 2015

The committee decided to change the meeting date to June 18, 2015. That meeting will begin at 9:30 am.

6. ADJOURN

MOTION by Cameron Rognan to adjourn.
Seconded by Nathan Brown.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.
Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.