

DRAFT

Yolo Habitat NCCP/HCP Steering Committee Meeting Summary July 23, 2007

Action Items

1. Maria Wong will advise Steering Committee members of the new address and phone number of the JPA office.
2. John Hopkins will email CCP the Northern California Planning Partners conference flyer for distribution to the larger listserv.
3. CCP will resend the 4-23-07 meeting summary with the 6/25/07 and the 7/23/07 meeting summary. Steering Committee members will review the meeting summaries and be prepared to approve them at the next Steering Committee meeting.
4. Steering Committee members will forward the names of local species experts to Maria Wong.
5. The Biological Working Group will review the draft Species Selection Criteria and make a recommendation to the Steering Committee to amend or accept the criteria.
6. The Biological Working Group will review the draft Covered Species List and recommend additional species the consultants should prepare species accounts for.
7. CCP will contact Working Group members and set up meeting dates for each Working Group. Scott Fleury will be included in the scheduling to ensure availability of support from the technical consultants.
8. Maria Wong will send the species accounts in groups of 5 to the Biological Working Group for the initial review. The Working Group will review to be sure the information meets the regulatory framework and has the appropriate level of detail.
9. Maria Wong will forward a request to Department of Fish and Game to provide Prop 84 funds to the UC Davis graduate student to complete GIS data for the vegetation map.
10. Maria Wong and Steve Greco, UC Davis, will discuss additional mapping to enhance the current vegetation map.

Summary

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was convened at 6:10 p.m.

2. Introductions

Attendees:

Steering Committee Members

Jim Baxter
Glen Holstein
John Hopkins
Paul Robbins
Mitch Sears

Planning Partner Agencies

Cori Mustin, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

JPA Executive Director

Maria Wong

Interested Parties

Steve Greco, UC Davis

Facilitator

Jodie Monaghan, Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP)

3. Approval of Meeting Summary

Approval of the 4/23/07 and the 6/25/07 meeting summary was tabled until the next meeting.

4. Update on JPA Activities

Maria Wong announced that the JPA office will be moving the last week of July. She also announced two upcoming conferences. The Northern California Planning Partners annual conference is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14th in Vacaville. The Riparian Habitat Joint Venture Conference will be held December 4-6, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento.

Ms. Wong commented that the vegetation map will be posted to the website within the week. The GIS data will be presented in both SHAPR files and .pdf files.

4. Draft Covered Species List

Ms. Wong commented that inclusion of a particular species on the covered species list should be based on the five covered species selection criteria:

1. Species Range: The species is known to occur in the Plan Area or is likely to occur based on the presence of suitable habitat.
2. Listing Status: the species is currently listed under the ESA or CESA, or is likely to become listed under these laws within the term of the permit.
3. Effects of Existing and Future Activities: the species is likely to be adversely affected by activities that are ongoing or likely to occur within the Plan Area.
4. Adequacy of Existing Data on the Species: sufficient data is available regarding the species' life history, habitat requirements, and presence in the Plan Area to adequately evaluate impacts to the species and develop appropriate conservation measures.

5. Feasibility of providing for the Conservation of the Species: practicable measures are likely to be available to provide for the conservation of the species and the benefits that would result are commensurate with costs.

In addition, species with broad public concern can also be included. Ms. Wong did note that the current proposed list exceeds available funding by 11 species. She will submit a grant application to request additional funding to allow for the addition of another 15 – 20 species.

In reviewing the Species Evaluation narrative on page 3 of the Covered Species Selection Criteria, a concern was expressed that terms such as “not practicable” and “cost prohibitive” are subjective. There may be some species currently labeled as not practicable and cost prohibitive that may be of future concern. A question was asked about the meaning of the word “potential” when used as part of the criteria “potential for listing under ESA or CESA,” and “potential for covered activities to affect the species.” Ms Wong responded that “potential” means “is reasonable to assume.” Another question asked what constitutes “feasible” in the criteria “feasibility of providing for the conservation of the species.”

A question was asked if any thought had been given to guiding species to save money. Ms. Wong replied that the HCCP/NCCP requires individual species to be named in the permit. However, she did mention that some of the invertebrates would be guided since it was not practical to monitor them individually.

The Steering Committee reviewed the Draft Covered Species List and recommended that the consultants begin work on the species accounts for 62 species. The Biological Working Group will review and the balance of the species on the list and make recommendations to the Steering Committee. It was noted that the Steering Committee may not be familiar with all the species such as the Ancient Ant, but may be familiar with local experts. Steering Committee members were encouraged to advise Ms. Wong of anyone who could provide local expertise.

When asked if the proposed covered species list met the interests of each steering Committee member, the following comments were recorded:

- Meets interests – more comprehensive than expected
- Good start
- Meets needs
- Think additional species need to be added

4. Working Group Assignments

The following Working Groups were confirmed:

Working Group	Membership
Biological Working Group	Jim Baxter Keith Fichtner Glen Holstein John Hopkins

Urban Interface Working Group	Keith Fitchner Mitch Sears Todd Chambers
Ag Interface Working Group	Paul Robins John Hopkins Ag interest to be named

The Biological Working Group will review the Draft Covered Species List. Specifically, they will review the proposed species not approved by the Steering Committee, review the list of species the consultants are not recommending to cover to be sure none are overlooked, and propose any other species for consideration of coverage. The Biological Working group requested on-line capabilities to review candidate species and asked that the consultant be available via telephone during Working Group meetings.

The Biological Working Group will also perform the initial review of the species accounts.

7. Public Comments

Steve Greco, UC Davis, commented that one of his graduate students had begun a more complete GIS mapping project of Yolo County. At present, all vegetation has been mapped but not attributed. He recommended that the Yolo Natural Heritage Program assist in finding funding for the student to complete the GIS data since the current consultant vegetation map is missing 50% of the vegetation. He suggested that the vegetation map is the basis for planning and should drive the conservation plan by identifying various habitats and allowing use of existing patches of habitat.

Dr. Greco also asked if efforts have been made to compile a list of historical species. He suggested a return to the historical landscape should be a goal of the conservation plan.

8. Adjournment of the Steering Committee to September 24, 2007

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Handouts:

- Agenda
- Yolo Natural Heritage Program Covered Species: Draft Covered Species Selection Criteria
- Staff Communication: Draft Covered Species List
- Draft Covered Species List
- Riparian Habitat Joint Venture Conference announcement