

APRIL 2017

Update on Actions and Meeting Outcomes

MEETING GOAL

Our goal for this meeting is to determine how we can work together to fully utilize Nature's Network to advance the implementation of conservation in the priority areas that we identified at our fall meeting. In our discussions today, we will identify next steps and specific outcomes that both partners and LCC staff can work toward this year to collaborate and leverage conservation action.

**FALL 2016
OUTCOMES**

Last fall, we asked our steering committee to help us determine where we can make the greatest conservation impacts, who else should be involved, and how we can begin to coalesce efforts to implement conservation using our landscape conservation design and tools--how to connect the dots. The following themes emerged:

- NALCC can make the greatest conservation impacts by focusing on certain priority resources and geographies:
 - ***At-risk species: including SGCN and those in early successional habitat and riparian buffers;***
 - ***Aquatic connectivity;***
 - ***Coastal resilience & species using coastal marshes;***
 - ***Place-based initiatives, including Connecticut River watershed, the Gulf of Maine, Hudson Valley, Long Island Sound/NY Bight, and Chesapeake landscapes.***
- States, NEAFWA Committees, Joint Ventures, Fish Habitat Partnerships and Endangered Species programs were identified as belonging to a preliminary, initial list of likely users of LCC decision support tools.
- The clear next step that emerged was to focus on refining and strengthening science delivery in order to provide meaningful outreach and training to diverse audiences with different needs. In particular, a strong interest was expressed to organize future science delivery around case studies, to engage staff in familiar and relevant topics, rather than hypothetical, geographically distant or "generic" training examples. The process of engaging

with staff to identify topics for training can serve as a structure for continuous feedback and refinement of delivery approaches.

**FALL 2016
ACTION ITEMS**

- Continue to schedule workshops on available information and tools from the North Atlantic LCC. Coordinate with state agency partners, to include interested partner organizations, and organize to make efficient use of NALCC staff capacity in meeting Region-wide demand. Focus on case studies that are familiar and relevant to workshop participants in hosting locations.
 - *STATUS: We increased capacity to develop customized workshops based on case studies recommended by users and are actively engaged in the development of a pilot workshop to be held April 27.*
- Continue to compare initial RCOA results with individual state COA and *Connect the Connecticut* results, and analyze differences and reasons for those differences, on a state-by-state basis.
 - *STATUS: Ongoing.*
- Systematically evaluate the relationships between major users and the current assemblage of LCC-sponsored tools.
 - *STATUS: Ongoing, we are engaging NEAFWA committees, SWAP coordinators, Joint Ventures, Endangered Species Programs and other partners to assess needs.*
- Establish a unified process for developing new science and science delivery needs, including engagement of a forum of users, providing recommendations on allocations, engaging Technical and Science Delivery Committees in prioritizing, refining, and scoping the needs for consideration by Steering Committee, and bringing priorities to the Steering Committee meeting for consideration in April meeting.
 - *STATUS: We have undertaken a targeted process to identify the needs of users, with a focus on existing, successful tools and products, that we are sharing with the Steering Committee (see Handout 10). In light of significant budget uncertainties, as well as the effort*

necessary over the past six months to complete Nature's Network, we have not yet carried out a full review with our Technical and Science Delivery Committees.

- Develop two fact sheets, one on how the North Atlantic LCC relates to and complements the Northeast Climate Science Center, and one on how the LCC relates to and complements JV's and FHP's.
 - *STATUS: We are actively engaged with these entities, and are mutually exploring our evolving roles, but it is premature to definitively characterize them at this time.*
- Outline proposed next steps and opportunities for engagement in a strategic plan update.
 - *STATUS: Inactive since October 2016.*

**DESIRED
OUTCOMES
APRIL 2017**

To be discussed in section 4 of the agenda:

1. Identify 3-4 volunteer host states for multi-state workshops, including specific staff contacts to help specify meeting content and attendees, and a time frame for scheduling the workshops.
2. Establish a mechanism to identify Federal and NGO partners with expertise in topics identified identified by workshop planners, including participation by partners as trainers.

To be discussed in section 8 of the agenda:

1. Reinforce or refine consensus around general priority areas for conservation collaboration identified in the fall of 2016;
2. Identify specific outcomes that we would like to achieve this next year;
3. Identify needs and opportunities for partners to leverage action and advance strategic conservation in each of the priority areas;
4. Identify specific roles and contacts for NALCC staff in each of the priority areas.

To be discussed in section 9 of the agenda:

1. Prioritize new actions identified in breakout sessions in the context of science and science delivery needs carried forward from ongoing processes.