**North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative**

**Steering Committee Meeting**

**November 5, 2013 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; November 6, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Gardiner, New York**

Action Items

*Actions Taken*

**Hurricane Sandy:** LCC staff and Steering Committee members will assist with the assessment and coordination of funded Hurricane Sandy resiliency science projects and future proposals through the DOI competitive funding, specifically

* Assemble a database of key information from funded DOI projects that allows for linking together of key projects and identification of science gaps that can be addressed through competitive DOI Hurricane Sandy funding through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation;
* LCC staff , FWS (Rick Bennett), NPS (Amanda Babson), USGS (Pete Murdoch) and NOAA (Ellen Mecray) will collaborate on a database and crosswalk of DOI funded projects and investigate the addition of other Hurricane Sandy science projects from other federal agencies and states;
* Provide database and summary of results to LCC partners, DOI Agencies and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and
* Help coordinate the development of proposals to address unmet regional science needs through the competitive DOI Hurricane Sandy funding.

*A database of funded DOI and NOAA projects was developed through LCC Steering Committee members (Murdoch, Babson, Mecray) and staff (Milliken) with database assistance from USGS (Steve Tessler) and distributed to project partners and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Database and PDF versions posted on LCC Hurricane Sandy page*: <http://www.northatlanticlcc.org/resources/hurricane-sandy>

**Native genotypes for restoration**: Bill Brumback (New England Wildflower Society) will work with National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks to encourage Hurricane sandy restorations that include plantings to utilize native genotype material and ensure that there's an adequate supply when needed.

*Bill Brumback consulted with staff in National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks involved in Hurricane Sandy restoration projects about using local seed sources. He worked with New England Wildflower Society, Mid Atlantic Regional Seed Bank, and the North Carolina Botanic Garden on a competitive grant proposal for providing native seed for these projects and establishing a native seed bank for the eastern U.S. Andrew Milliken consulted with Bureau of Land Management on option of providing Department Support through that Bureau.*

**Landscape Conservation Design:** LCC staff will further articulate an iterative process and timeline for Landscape Conservation Design and move forward with key steps including:

* a pilot effort to test the application and seek input and feedback on Landscape Conservation Design in the Connecticut River Watershed;
* individual meetings with several states an NGOs including crosswalks with state design products;
* consider options for meetings, presentations or workshops at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference; and
* report back on the progress of this iterative process to the Steering Committee at the April meeting and recommend next steps.

*LCC and FWS staff initiated a pilot effort for landscape conservation design in the Connecticut River Watershed with a Core Team of partners in the watershed. The Core Team met twice and formed aquatic and terrestrial sub teams to developed objectives for species and ecosystems. LCC staff also discussed ideas for regional Conservation Opportunity Areas with state GIS staff and State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators. LCC Steering Committee Chair Ken Elowe, LCC staff and FWS staff met with State Fish and Wildlife Directors and staff in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Connecticut to discuss the status of LCC conservation design information and tools and Connecticut River pilot ideas. LCC staff will report back to Steering Committee in April.*

**Science delivery:** Science delivery team will take next steps to implement the approved recommendations for science delivery including:

* increasing capacity for technical assistance and information management;
* developing and issuing a RFP with the two themes of demonstration project and technical assistance grants; and
* presenting recommendations on proposals at the April Steering Committee meeting.

*LCC hired additional part-time GIS/database help to post available spatial data on the LCC Conservation Planning Atlas data portal (*[*http://nalcc.databasin.org/*](http://nalcc.databasin.org/)*) and contracted with Chesapeake Conservancy to assist with training. A Science Delivery RFP was issued by the Wildlife Management Institute on behalf of the North Atlantic LCC on January 20 with a deadline of March 7, 2014 (*[*http://www.northatlanticlcc.org/news/news-and-announcements-inbox/north-atlantic-lcc-announces-rfp-for-science-delivery*](http://www.northatlanticlcc.org/news/news-and-announcements-inbox/north-atlantic-lcc-announces-rfp-for-science-delivery)*) Thirteen proposals were submitted. Science Delivery Team reviewed proposals and will provide recommendations to the Steering Committee in April.*

**Communications framework:** next steps include

* David Eisenhauer will incorporate comments received on the Communications Framework and provide a revised draft to the Steering Committee for review by November 18 (done).
* Steering Committee members will provide additional input and suggestions for communications team members by December 13.

*David Eisenhauer incorporated additional feedback and will review the Communications Framework and next steps at the April Steering Committee meeting.*

**Science projects:** LCC staff and WMI will develop scope of work and contracts with P.I.s selected for the two approved science projects for:

* Vernal pools with Vermont Center for Ecostudies et al. and
* Stream crossings with University of Massachusetts Amherst et al.

*WMI completed contracts to both Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) and University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass) and projects are underway including a North Atlantic vernal pool workshop held April 7. The Department of the Interior Hurricane sandy funded project on stream resiliency and fish passage will be closely coordinated with the LCC project.*

**Vice chair and executive committee:** LCC Chair Ken Elowe and Vice-Chair Patty Riexinger will consider options for next vice-chair or chairs and options for a LCC executive committee and present recommendations prior to and at the April Steering Committee Meeting.

*Ken Elowe and Patty Riexinger provided recommendations by email in April and will present recommendations for discussion at the April Steering Committee meeting.*