

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, **February 11, 2016.**

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)
Nathan Brown	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
John Kellam	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Absent and Excused was:

Marshall Topham	Local Biologist
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Also present were:

Bob Sandberg	Washington County HCP Administrator
Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kristen Comella noted a quorum existed and called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. January 14, 2016

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

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Open Public Meetings Act Training – Jodi Borgeson

Deputy County Attorney Jodi Borgeson presented Exhibit 3-a-1, an Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA) training. This training is given yearly to the Technical Committee and defines what a meeting is and discusses the laws by which open and closed meetings should be properly noticed and conducted. Jodi also discussed penalties for not following the OPMA.

b. Chair and Vice Chair elections

The committee discussed the Chair and Vice Chair rotation. The Vice Chairman is usually appointed the new Chairman, therefore Cameron Rognan was recommended for the Chairman position. John Kellam was recommended for the new Vice Chairman.

MOTION by Kristen Comella to recommend Cameron Rognan as Chairman and John Kellam as Vice Chairman of the Technical Committee.

Seconded by Nathan Brown.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

c. Consideration and recommendation on Sentierre trail proposal

Since there are no new updates on this item the committee decided to table this discussion until March.

d. Consideration of Palisades property boundary discrepancy

Bob Sandberg updated the committee on a boundary discrepancy on the Palisades property in Ivins. Walt Plumb, with the Palisades development, previously came to the TC asking for a step over access into the Reserve. In exchange he donated a corner of his property to Ivins City. Exhibits 3-d-1 and 3-d-2 show the discrepancy. When the development was laid out the lots were staked on the Reserve side of the fence. The realtor of the development called Bob and requested the HCP move the Reserve fence because the fence was on their property. In 2001 there was a survey done by Bush and Gudgell which established the boundary of the Reserve where the current fence is located. In 2014 the same company did a survey that laid out the development property which ended about 20 feet past the fence into the Reserve. There will be meetings with Bush and Gudgell, but Bob is not sure what will happen with this survey discrepancy. He wanted the committee to be aware of the issue as it is one that will be dealt with as soon as possible.

e. Restoration site visit discussion

Ann mentioned there will be a field trip tomorrow morning to the two proposed sites for the UNLV project regarding desert tortoise habitat restoration within burned areas. Interested parties will meet at 8am at the BLM office and first visit the Beaver Dam Wash. Then, they will go to the plot in the Reserve which is located just to the right before heading off to the Turkey Farm on Cottonwood Road. Scott Abella from UNLV will attend the field trip and discuss the project.

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

a. Ann mentioned the purchase of a 13 acre parcel in Middleton Wash that has

tamarisk and Russian thistle issues. She has been working with the Santa Clara fire department and the American Conservation Experience (ACE) who are interested in helping restore some of that area. She received an estimate for a crew to help remove some of the non native species, apply herbicide to the tamarisk and Russian olive stumps, and remove trash in the area. It is still in the preliminary stages, but she wanted the committee to be aware of the project.

b. John Kellam met with representatives from Southwest Utah National Conservation Lands Friends (SUNCLF) who asked if there were any conservation volunteer opportunities such as trail maintenance or plantings. Cameron mentioned the HCP does a spring project with SUU each year, and he could use SUNCLF members for that as well. Cameron asked the committee members to think of areas that need to be worked on for a spring project.

c. Cameron mentioned the Springdale take area clearance is coming up. The committee discussed fencing options for the area. After the clearance is done by the HCP the construction crews will put temporary fencing in the areas where they are working. Cameron mentioned there is going to be an educational kiosk at the Sprindale trailhead to educate the public and provide tortoise awareness.

d. Bob reminded the committee of a field trip that will take place on February 23rd at the Turkey Farm. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) will be there to discuss their work in the area.

Rocky Mountain Power is still working on the power line upgrade. There is supposed to be a walk through on Tuesday. Then they will be doing some restoration work. Washington City is done with their well work. St. George City is still working on a broken down well but will hopefully be done soon.

e. Ann asked about upcoming spring clearances. Cameron mentioned the Springdale clearance as well as one in Green Valley. The committee discussed the development that will be started in Green Valley.

f. Kristen mentioned the temporary patch in the Tuacahn fencing is holding up. She has met with Markay about repairing the fence so if he has not done that yet it will be done soon.

There has been a spike in after hour issues in the Park. The Park is continuing to coordinate with the County Sherriff's office for monitoring.

g. John Kellam mentioned he is applying for two BLM grants to purchase lands in Zone 4 Babylon under recreation and public access.

h. Bob mentioned Markay is working on the Pioneer Park fencing that the committee previously discussed.

5. **NEXT MEETING DATES**

a. **March 17, 2016**

The committee agreed to change the date of the next meeting from March 10th to March 17th.

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 11:15 a.m.
Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.