

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 12, 2016.**

Members present were:

Cameron Rognan, Chairman	Washington County HCP
John Kellam, Vice Chairman	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Kristen Comella	Snow Canyon State Park (SCSP)
Ann McLuckie	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)

Absent and Excused were:

Nathan Brown	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Marshall Topham	Local Biologist

Also present were:

Bob Sandberg	Washington County HCP Administrator
Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP Recorder
Celeste Maloy	Washington County Attorney's Office
Alan Gardner	Washington County Commission
Kade Bringhurst	St. George City

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cameron Rognan noted a quorum existed and called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. April 14, 2016

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

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Request for replacement well site – St. George City

Kade Bringhurst (St. George City) handed out exhibit 3-a-1 to the committee and discussed the City's request for a back up well site. The map shows a proposed and alternate well site. According to Mr. Bringhurst, the proposed site would be better

hydraulically than the alternate site. The committee discussed his proposal and ultimately decided on a field trip to the site before the July meeting. Bob Sandberg also read from the HCP (Exhibit 3-a-1) regarding water development.

b. T-Bone tank waterline discussion

Kade Bringhurst also passed out Exhibit 3-b-1, a map showing the T-Bone tank and a proposed route that would allow for water to go from that tank to The Ledges area. The City will submit an application to the BLM for this issue. The committee agreed it must go through BLM first, and they will discuss it later in the process.

c. Discussion of Sentierre trail proposal

Kristen Comella reminded the committee of Sentierre's proposal for a new trail to begin near the boulder on their private property that would connect to an existing trail on State Park property. Snow Canyon has gone out with members of their Citizen's Advisory Team and they were able to come up with a few alternatives. The first alternative would be to say no to a new trail and keep what the park has with no access where Sentierre proposed. Another alternative would be to allow a new route that serves as a short connector using an old road bed from the boulder to the Toe Trail. The third alternative would be a longer trail along the old road bed that goes further across and higher along the bench to create a four-point connection. From the Park's prospective the longer option is preferred. If that option is chosen, there would potentially be a section of the Toe Trail on the opposite side of Snow Canyon Drive closed to offset the new trail. The Abigail Park wash step over would remain as well as the paved walkway between Eagle Rock and Vermillion Cliffs, but the section of trail behind the subdivisions would close. All of the plans are dependent upon Sentierre and if their proposed plans go forward. The committee discussed the three options and what would be best from a SCSP perspective. The committee decided to have a field trip in July and continue this topic at the July TC meeting.

d. Consideration of Jenny's Canyon seasonal closure dates

Kristen mentioned SCSP along with their Citizen's Advisory Committee and Joint Management Committee recently spoke about seasonal closures. The question was raised as to why Jenny's Canyon had a seasonal closure in place. Once Kristen looked into the issue she found there was nothing in the 1998 Resource Management Plan about the closure. When it was the only trail in the area it made sense, however Kristen suggests the seasonal closure be lifted for Jenny's Canyon. Kristen will write up a recommendation to take before the HCAC at the end of May.

MOTION by Ann McLuckie to recommend the seasonal closure on Jenny's Canyon be lifted.

Seconded by John Kellam.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

e. Update and consideration of firebreak options

Cameron mentioned the HCP contacted the goat farmer, but they are not interested in going out this year due to the lack of forage available. The committee discussed options including prison crews with weed whackers, spraying herbicide, or volunteer help. They agreed there needs to be a plan in place to follow each year for firebreak options along Cottonwood Road. For this spring, however, there is potential for SUNCLF volunteers or prison crews. Cameron will speak to the prison crew to see if there is any availability in the next few weeks. John will speak with volunteers from SUNCLF to see if they would be willing to help. John will also speak with others at the BLM about spraying herbicides in the fall or next spring.

f. Update and consideration of trail work projects

Cameron mentioned SUU will not be available this spring for a trail work project. If there are any areas that need immediate attention there are ACE crews that can be contacted.

g. UNLV restoration project update

Ann updated the committee on the restoration project with UNLV. There have been conference calls every month to discuss the progress of the project. The big issues currently include what kind of cages to purchase for the plants and how many plants are predicted to be ready for fall planting.

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

a. The committee discussed a few tortoises that were found at a clearance the day before the meeting.

5. NEXT MEETING DATES

a. **June 16, 2016** -The committee decided to move the next meeting to June 16, 2016. They will meet at 8:30 am at the Mill Creek Trailhead.

6. ADJOURN

MOTION by John Kellam to adjourn.
Seconded by Ann McLuckie.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.
 Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.