

HABITAT CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A **work meeting** of the Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee (HCAC) was held at the Washington County Administration building on **September 20, 2016**.

Committee members present were:

Chris Blake, Chairman	Environmental Organization
Chris Hart, Chair pro tem	Local Development
Henry Maddux	Utah Dept. of Natural Resources (UDNR)
Larry Crist	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Dawna Ferris-Rowley	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Absent and excused were:

Marc Mortensen	Citizen-at-Large
John Bramall, Vice Chairman	Mayors Association

Also present were:

Lynn Chamberlain	HCP Administrator
Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP – Recorder
Alan Gardner	Washington County Commissioner
Cameron Rognan	HCP Biologist
Julie Applegate	St. George News
Eric Clarke	Deputy Washington County Attorney
Sandy Johnson	Conserve SW Utah
Chris Gorzalski	Conserve SW Utah
Dave Rubacchi	Conserve SW Utah
Adam Snow	Rep. Chris Stewart's Office
Mindy Wheeler	UNDR Botanist

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chris Blake called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

2. DISCUSSION ITEM

a. HCP / Permit Renewal

Larry Crist began the discussion by mentioning the FWS Regional Director recently visited for a tour of the area and to talk about various issues. One of these being the HCP permit renewal.

Prior to the meeting, Larry sent the committee members an outline of items that need to be done during the renewal process (Exhibit 2-a-1). Larry would like to use the implementation agreement to focus the renewal efforts, looking at what has been

completed and section by section discussing what is still pertinent or if there is anything that needs to be added. Based on the outcome of those discussions the committee will end up with a proposed action for the NEPA. By using the implementation agreement the committee can thoroughly discuss each section in a structured way.

The committee agreed a work meeting would be the best format for these discussions. Committee members would like to have the draft supplement, which will be reviewed by Larry by October 14th, sent to them for review once it is ready. The signatories to the HCP were present and decided to set up a work meeting after the HCAC meeting on October 25th and also have time set aside the morning of October 26th to continue the discussion. Larry's suggestion is for members to go through the HCP document and implementation agreement before the next meeting and bring thoughts and ideas for discussion. Larry also mentioned he set aside \$20,000 to provide assistance for the HCP renewal process. Those funds could be used to help with hiring a contractor. The committee discussed options for hiring a contractor or keeping things in house. Overall, there are support documents to be finished after which the signatories to the HCP will go through the implementation plan section by section to update or change items as they see necessary.

Chairman Blake was excused from the meeting at 12:20 p.m. and appointed Mayor Hart to serve a Chair pro tem for the remainder of the meeting.

b. Budget Discussion

HCP Administrator Lynn Chamberlain referenced the draft HCP budget for 2017 (Exhibit 2-b-1). The highlighted areas are items that have changed. The committee thoroughly discussed the draft budget and raised questions regarding the outreach coordinator possibly going full time, an additional intern for next year, an increase in research, new equipment and software for the department in regards to outreach and education needs, and the possible new visitor center building. The committee also discussed allowing \$25,000 for the permit renewal. There were a few Confluence Park line items on the budget so Lynn will make changes and bring an updated draft budget to the HCAC meeting next week for review.

3. ADJOURN

MOTION by Henry Maddux to adjourn the meeting.
Seconded by Larry Crist.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.
Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.