

Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Organizing Committee Meeting Summary

BLM State Office

Boise, Idaho

July 21-23, 2010

Participants:

Nat Frazer, Great Basin Research and Management Partnership

Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues

Adair Muth, EnviroIssues

Rang Narayanan, Great Basin Environmental Program and Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Sara O'Brien, Defenders of Wildlife

Mike Pellant, Bureau of Land Management

Duane Petite, The Nature Conservancy

Rory Reynolds, Utah Department of Natural Resources

Randy Sharp, U.S. Forest Service

Joe Tague, Bureau of Land Management

Kim Townsend, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

Selena Werdon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Wednesday, July 21, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Welcome and introductions

Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues facilitator, welcomed meeting participants and reviewed the agenda and objectives. She led team introductions and had everyone introduce themselves and the organization they represented.

Penny explained to participants that the Bureau of Land Management went to the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) to neutrally convene this effort. She said that EnviroIssues was contracted by the USIECR.

Penny reviewed the agenda and asked participants to come to the meeting with an open mind and really think about how to structure and stand up this organization to best serve the entire basin. She then asked participants to write in one sentence, their hope or wish for what the Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) would be.

Participants wrote down the following hopes about the Great Basin LCC:

- *To be able to communicate more effectively with all federal, state and local agencies and groups within the Great Basin on protecting, conserving and preserving land, water and natural resources and critical habitats. To help bring in tribal perspective and participation in global climate change*

- *Provide communication, coordination, and collaboration necessary to ensure wise management of the Great Basin based on sound science and shared values*
- *Becomes a clearinghouse for coordinating and sharing participants' conservation concerns and priorities and where collaboration becomes the rule rather than the exception for implementing conservation actions*
- *Coordinated partnership effort to improve/maintain habitats within the Great Basin that is also cost-effective*
- *To serve as a forum for identifying shared goals and priorities in natural resource conservation and helping members (including science products) draw together the resources to make those things happen*
- *Coordination of science, assessments, data, etc. to reduce duplication and leverage efforts to be more efficient with our limited resources*
- *An organization that coordinates multiple efforts within the Great Basin with strong emphasis on science-based efforts regarding climate change*
- *All parties working together towards a common and shared vision of a healthy and sustainable Great Basin*
- *Help bring more resources to improve the Great Basin ecosystem for planning/management, research/education, on-the-ground implementation*
- *Help us do conservation work in a collaborative manner at a landscape scale*

Overview of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC)

Introduction to LCCs and the Great Basin LCC

Mike Pellant, Great Basin Restoration Initiative Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled “*Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative*” to provide participants more information specifically on the Great Basin LCC (Appendix A). Mike presented the following information:

- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs):
 - Were established in Secretarial Order No. 3289 on September 14, 2009 by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to better integrate science and management to address climate change and other landscape-scale issues
 - Are self-directed science and management partnerships between Interior Department bureaus, other federal agencies, states, tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGO), universities, and stakeholders within a geographically defined area
 - Better inform coordinated resource management actions that address climate change and other stressors within and across landscapes
- 21 LCCs function as an integrated national network
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Climate Science Centers are partnership-based entities that provide fundamental science to assist LCCs and others in adapting to or mitigating the impacts of climate change and associated stressors
- LCCs add value:
 - Forum for coordination among partners
 - Science-based decision support tools

- Biological and geospatial data sharing
- Shared regional assessments
- Help partners define research needs
- LCCs do *not*:
 - Implement or fund on-the-ground projects
 - Replace existing organizations, groups or partnerships
 - Regulate or prescribe activities
- Diverse number of landowners in the Great Basin; largest percentage of land (approximately 54% of the total 146 million acres) is managed by BLM
- Issues in the Great Basin: wildfires, invasive species, development, loss of habitat, water and climate change
- Many partnerships, organizations and agencies are already working together in the Great Basin, such as the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development, and Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
- Concept of Great Basin LCC: will link all existing organizations, agencies and partnerships together and then link the LCC to the climate science centers and help bring science to everyone
- Great Basin LCC Informational Meetings in May, 2010: Boise- May 11, Salt Lake City-May 12, Reno-May 13, 100+ participants from seven states
- Synthesis Report – Selected Recommendations
 - Conduct outreach for additional members
 - Establish a short-term Organizing Committee:
 - Mission
 - Structure
 - Governance
 - Identify one major priority to focus on in 2011

Recap of May Great Basin LCC meetings

Penny presented a PowerPoint presentation to provide participants an overview of the May Great Basin LCC meetings (Appendix B).

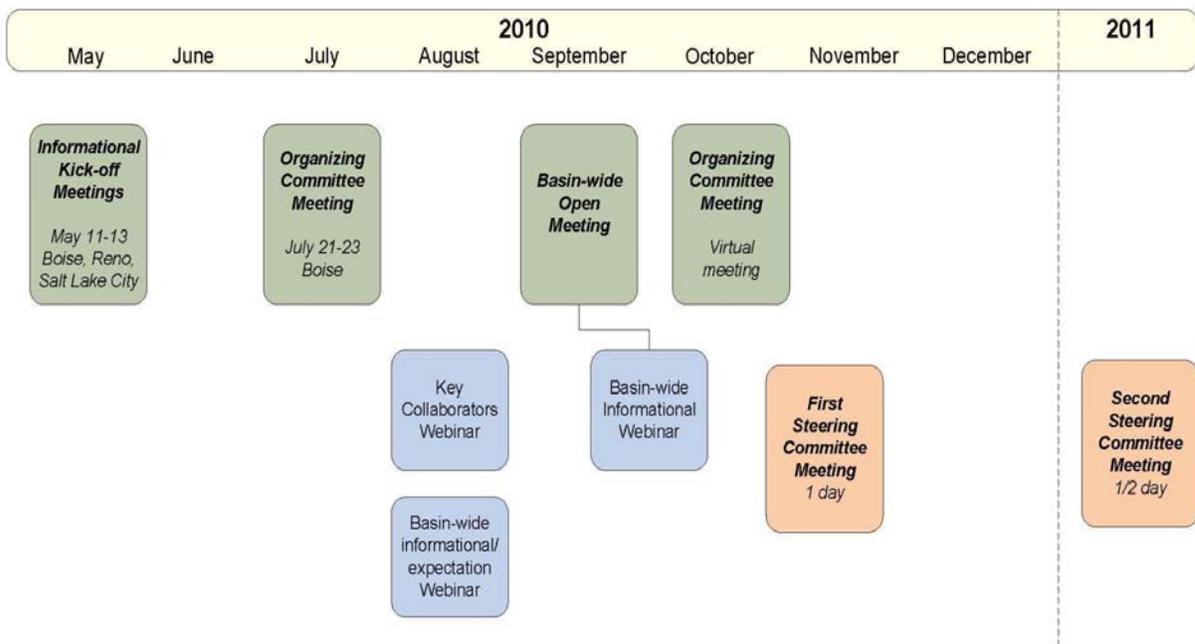
At each meeting, participants discussed how the new Great Basin LCC organization should be formed, including who should be on it, what the focus should be and the schedule. The discussion was initiated at the first meeting in Boise and participants in Salt Lake City and Reno then built upon the ideas from the previous meeting(s).

The vision was that an Organizing Committee, consisting of representatives from each meeting (Boise, Salt Lake City, and Reno) would come together and start developing the basis of how the Great Basin LCC will govern itself. A synthesis would be developed from the outcome of the three May meetings, also incorporating experiences and lessons-learned from other LCCs. Participants suggested surveying partners to find out their expectations of the Great Basin LCC. Information about the LCC would accompany the survey and information would also be provided via webinars. The Organizing Committee would take the synthesis and the results of the survey to help them draft the governance, mission, and structure of the Great Basin LCC.

The Organizing Committee would then present their drafts on the governance, mission, and structure to all partners at one large meeting with all three geographical regions coming together (Basin-Wide Meeting). The results of the Basin-Wide Meeting would be brought back to partners for review. The Organizing Committee would make the decision to adopt the draft governance, mission, and structure, with the consultation of key partners.

It was suggested that once the Great Basin LCC is operating, a second survey be conducted to identify barriers, efficiencies and priorities among partners. Additionally, participants thought it was important to identify one major priority for the Great Basin LCC to focus on in fiscal year 2011.

Envirolssues created the schedule below, based on the results of the three May meetings.



Penny talked about the need to engage all of the key collaborators in the process of forming this LCC. She presented a slide listing the organizations that participated in the May meetings and noted that it was a significant number but many key stakeholders were missing and part of the Organizing Committee’s job was to identify who those missing stakeholders are and engage them in the next steps of the process. (See Appendix B, slide 5 for the list of participating organizations).

Penny’s final slide outlined the goals for each day of the meeting:

- Wednesday: Vision, Mission, Purpose/Goals
- Thursday: Governance, Structure, Roles and Responsibilities/Function
- Friday: Decision Making, Meetings Guidance, Stakeholder Participation

Vision and mission

Visioning the Great Basin LCC in the Future

Penny led a visioning exercise and asked participants to close their eyes and think ahead ten years. She said the Great Basin LCC has been up and running for ten years and said it has been a wonderful success.

She asked participants, what makes it a success? Participants said the following makes the LCC a success:

- Trust
- People working together towards the same goal
- LCC is recognized as the go-to place by anyone involved in resource issues in the Great Basin
- Shared conservation vision for the region – across agencies and across states
- Better understanding of the scientific processes of the ecosystem
- Decisions are made on best available science
- Land health is improving
- Public recognition that participants in these groups are getting good stuff done
- Better processes for public participation and decision-making
- Is the “Google” of information
- Less catastrophic wildfires and less invasives species
- Provides a valuable service (ecosystem and social)

Penny asked participants what the Great Basin LCC is providing. Participants answered the following:

- Provides successful climate change mitigation
- Communication is open and everyone understands what other agencies or groups are doing to make improvements all across the Basin
- Facilitates access to resources: financial, technical, material, and human
- Teams of people working together without regard to political or institutional boundaries, for example, universities are working more closely together and agencies are working together
- Standardization of data
- Coordination of data
- Providing information on landscape-scale threats that resource managers need for decision-making
- Searchable databases on expertise and projects

Penny asked participants if the LCC *they* see is providing prioritization or a platform for activities.

Participants said the following:

- LCC provides prioritization of those informational needs that are holding us back
- LCC provides the information for prioritization on conservation actions and development, and provides a way of coordinating the information so we collect, look at, and analyze it during the prioritization process
- LCC is the one entity that has all of the information in one place
- LCC is the entity that conducts or oversees the assessment

Penny reviewed the visioning list developed by participants thus far and asked if there was anything to add or if that was the picture of an LCC they wanted to see. Participants added the following:

- If this is a success ten years out, people should be begging to join the LCC
- Funds would be freely flowing in our direction

- LCC would be providing tools, climate models, protocols, etc. (real tools that people could log on and get for free)
- Political support (needs to transcend changes in administration)
- Education system – knowledge of the LCC in the next generation
- High participation by private landowners and industry
- Neat logo
- Fewer organizations within the Great Basin trying to do some of the things we are trying to accomplish because they are doing it through the LCC

Developing the Mission Statement

Penny read the mission statements from three other Great Basin organizations: the Great Basin Research and Management Partnership (GBRMP), Great Basin Environmental Program (GBEP) and Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV). She then read the mission statements from two other LCCs, the Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative (PICCC) and the Great Northern Landscape Conservation (GNLCC) Cooperative. (See Appendix B, slides 7 and 8.)

Penny asked participants to think about these mission statements and the visioning exercise and come up with the key elements for the mission and goals of the Great Basin LCC. Participants were broken into three groups and the following was developed:

Group 1:

Mission elements:

- Alliance/working together to develop solutions
- Ecological and socio-economic- human and natural communities
- Accommodate future climate change
- “membership that supports coordinated action among stakeholders”

Goals:

- Providing tools and services
- Identify shared information needs/gaps
- Clearinghouse for information/collaboration

Group 2:

- All lands – private sector
- Cooperation, coordination
- Conservation at the landscape level
- Support for “best” science management
- Resiliency and adaption at landscape level
- “Hub” or “axle (LCC) of wheel (organizations)”
- Leverage resources
- Understanding and response to climate change and other change agents (stressors or positive changes)
- Land and people linkage

- Education and outreach

Group 3:

- Building a communication forum
- Alliance
- Partners – partnership (supporting collaboration action)
- Resilience
- Climate change
- Other stressors
- Landscape level data and analytical tools

Penny led participants in identifying the commonalities among the three groups.

Commonalities

- Resilience (accommodate)
- Alliance
- Climate change and other stressors (or change agents)
- Cooperation, coordination
- Analytical tools
- Land and people/human and natural communities
- Gateway/pathway/hub/clearinghouse

Participants then worked as a large group to draft a mission statement based on the common elements.

Thursday, July 22, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Review mission

Penny recapped the previous day's meeting and reviewed the mission statement. Participants worked together to revise the mission statement as follows:

The Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GBLCC) serves as a hub to enhance understanding of the effects of climate change and other natural and human disturbances across the region and promotes coordinated science-based actions to enable human and natural communities to respond and/or adapt to those conditions.

The GBLCC accomplishes this mission by providing leadership and a framework linking science and management to address shared priority ecological and socio-economic issues through:

- Fostering a forum for participation and coordination
- Facilitating communication and outreach
- Supporting and coordinating research and monitoring
- Providing access to data, tools and technical expertise

Governance and structure

Penny told participants that today was going to be focused on governance, structure, roles and responsibilities and membership. She began by presenting PowerPoint slides of the governance and structure of the GBRMP, GBEP, IWJV, PICCC and GNLCC. (See Appendix B, slides 9 to 13). Penny noted that there is not a great deal of difference between organizational structures within the Great Basin.

The GBRMP has an Executive Committee and Coordinating Committee with Working Groups underneath. The IWJV has a Management Board, Coordinator, Standing Committees and State Steering Committees. Penny noted that additionally, there is a large number of staff. The GBEP is slightly different in that in phase one it has State Governors and Congressional Delegations as the leading body but in phase two, will have a lead federal agency. The lead federal agency will act as an advisory committee for the Acting Commission.

The GNLCC's main body is the Steering Committee but it is yet to be determined whether or not they will have an Executive Council. They have determined that their Interim Advisory Team will be kept standing. The Advisory Team will look at recommendations, draft documents and present them to the Steering Committee. Instead of forming sub-committees, the GNLCC decided to form three Eco-Geographic Forums because of the different geographical regions within their LCC.

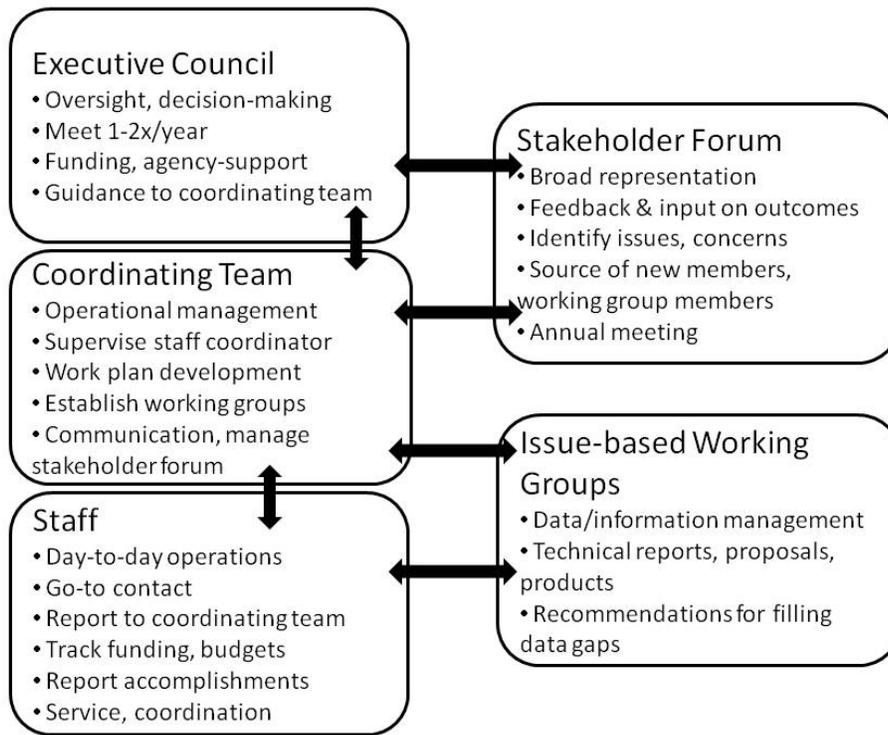
The PICCC has a Steering Committee, with an Executive Council, a PICCC coordinator and staff. The PICCC has working groups as well, but they are not based on disciplines but are rather issue or problem-based working groups.

Penny asked participants to break into small groups and address the following questions:

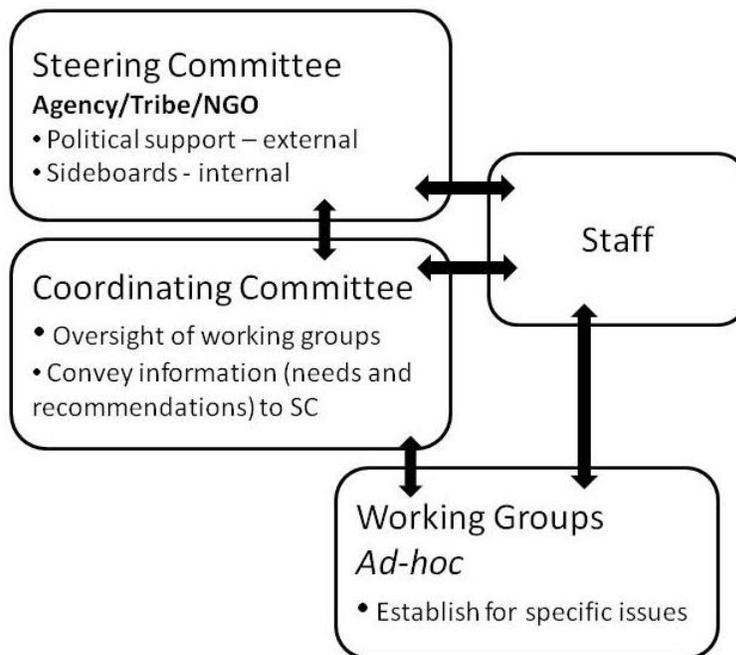
- Analyze the different structural models – what are the functions and where do they reside? What is the governance?
- What are the pros and cons of different models?
- What would your group recommend as a structural/governance model for the Great Basin LCC?

Participants were broken into two groups and reported back the following:

Group 1:



Group 2:



Penny put the structures that the two groups developed on a sticky wall to visually compare. There was not a lot of difference between the two structures except for naming conventions and the first group included a stakeholder forum.

One group called the overarching body the **Executive Council** while the other called it the **Steering Committee**. Participants discussed that even though they had different names both groups would consist of high level executives and would have the same functions. The group discussed which name to use for the Great Basin LCC and reached consensus to use Executive Council because they felt it sounded more inviting and fit their role in counseling the Coordination Team and stakeholders. Participants also agreed the Executive Council would have the following functions:

Executive Council

- Oversight, decision-making
- Meet 1-2 times a year
- Funding, agency-support
- Guidance to Coordinating Team
- LCC ambassadors

One group proposed a **Coordinating Committee** that would be open to everyone, while the other group proposed a **Coordinating Team** consisting of high-level managers plus a separate **Stakeholder Forum**, which would be open to everyone. The collective group decided that the Coordinating Committee/Team would be more efficient with more structure and a separate Stakeholder Forum. Participants also discussed whether to use the term “committee” or “team” and decided that team makes it sound more like a *team effort* and implies more of an obligation. The group reached consensus to call this body the Coordinating Team and agreed on the following functions:

Coordinating Team

- Operational management
- Work plan development
- Establish working groups
- Communication, manage stakeholder forum
- Oversight of working groups
- Convey information, needs and recommendations to Executive Council
- Supervise staff coordinator

The group reached consensus that the term Stakeholder Forum was acceptable and identified the following functions:

Stakeholder Forum

- Broad representation
- Feedback and input on outcomes
- Annual meeting
- Identify issues, concerns
- Source of new members, working group members

Both groups identified staff as part of their Great Basin LCC structures and identified the following functions:

Staff

- Coordinate with LCC network
- Support Executive Council and Coordinating
- Report to Coordinating Team
- Track funding, budgets

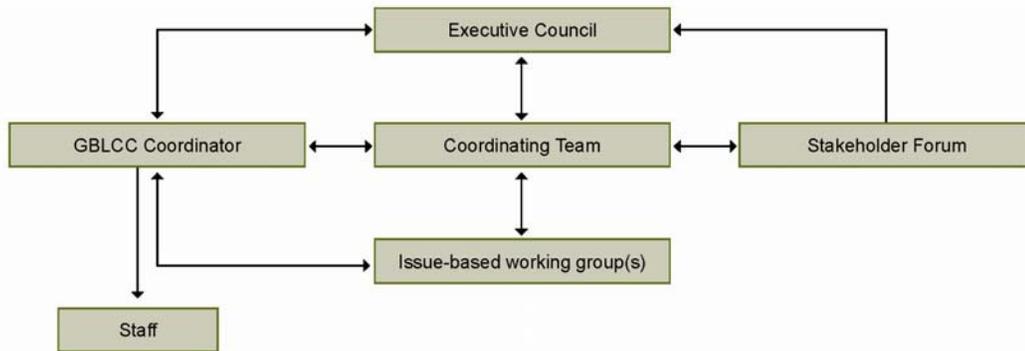
- Team
 - Report accomplishments
 - Service, coordination
- Day-to-day operations
- Go-to contact

Additionally, both groups agreed that there should be working groups and liked the idea of having issue-based working groups. They agreed these groups should be formed ad-hoc and would include the functions below.

Issue-based working groups:

- Data/information management
- Technical reports, proposals, products
- Recommendations for filling data gaps

Great Basin LLC
Proposed Structure 7/23/10



Membership

Penny asked participants to think about the membership of the Great Basin LCC and presented a series of PowerPoint slides of membership examples from the various Great Basin groups. (See Appendix B, slides 14 to 19).

Penny said at the May Great Basin LCC meetings, participants identified the following partner categories:

Cities	Irrigation Districts
Conservation Districts	Non-governmental organizations
Corporate/business interests	Private landowners
County representatives	State agencies
Energy interests	Transportation planners
Existing regional partnerships	Tribes
Federal agencies	Universities
Group-acknowledged representatives	Wildlife Groups

Penny noted that other organizations have different membership types and the Organizing Committee needed to think about if they wanted to describe different membership types for the Great Basin LCC. The GBRMP, for example, has three membership categories: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)-Signatory Members, Organizational Members, and Individual Participants. PICCC identifies membership categories as Members, Associate Members, and Cooperators. The GNLCC breaks their membership into the Steering Committee, Advisory Team, Science Community, and Partnership Community. The GBEP has Partners and Non-voting Commission members and specifically identifies the interests/stakeholders that will be represented.

Penny asked participants if there is an overarching thought about membership for the Great Basin LCC or if there was a statement or goal they would like to make about the GBLCC. Participants struggled to come up with an overarching thought about membership and decided it might help them to think about who would be included in each part of the LCC and then revisit the membership question.

The group brainstormed a list of who should be on the Executive Council. Penny then asked participants to break into two groups and asked the first group to develop who should be on the Executive Council. She asked the second group to develop who should be on the Coordinating Committee. The groups reported back their ideas and the collective group refined the ideas into the following:

Executive Council (21 members)

- Bureau of Land Management (1)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1)
- U.S. Geological Survey (1)
- U.S. Forest Service (1)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (1)
- States (5)
- Tribes (5)
- NGOs (2 conservation, 2 commodity/industry)
- Research Community (2)

The charter will include these members as a minimum but the Council has the flexibility to invite additional members.

Members must bring organizational commitment:

- Financial resources
- Technical expertise
- Personnel
- Advocacy (internal & external support)

Terms:

- Federal – permanent seat but can rotate amongst different parts of the organization and can be reappointed at the agencies' discretion
- States – governor appoints for a three-year term – LCC prompts for new or reappoint
- Tribes – three-year staggered rotation with an expression of interest
- NGOs, research community – three-year staggered rotation with an expression of interest

Further thoughts and questions about the Executive Council:

- Executive Council has executive level member from a particular organization and another member from the same organization is on the Coordinating Team
- Are the National Park Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs missing?
- Is there an unbalance of representation between management and science?

(Initial) Coordinating Team (32 members)

- Department of Interior agencies (6)
- State agencies (5 – one from each state)
- U.S. Forest Service (1 Research & 1 Management), Natural Resources Conservation Service (1), Agricultural Research Service (1) for a total of 4
- Tribes (5)
- Regional groups:
 - GBRMP (1)
 - GBEP (1)
 - GBCESU (1)
 - IWJV (1)
- User groups:
 - Ag producer groups (1)
 - Mining/Energy (1)
 - Recreation/Sportsmen (1)
- Conservation NGOs (3)
- County Association at state level (1)
- Climate Science Center (1)

Criteria:

- Executive Council organizations should also have representation on the Coordinating Team
- Representatives should have state, regional, regulatory, or academia focus as opposed to local focus
- Stakeholder Forum can produce additional members for Coordinating Team

Operating Procedures:

- Additions/changes to Coordinating Team need Executive Council approval
- Indefinite terms, however, lack of participation puts the representative group in the seat at risk; Coordinating Team determines minimum level of participation to retain seat
- Minimum of quarterly meetings with option for more as needed

Further thoughts and questions about the Coordinating Team:

- Need to bring an initial group together and then let them decide if there are additional players missing
 - Are local governments or association of counties missing?
 - Is there an organization that represents an entire state's local government?

- If a group has too local of a perspective they become an advocate for that one area; need to have a broader perspective
- Need to have some flexibility for adding representation to the team – there should be flexibility for Coordinating Team to expand with buy-off from the Executive Council
- Concern with turnover
- Peer pressure brings about performance – “if you are going to be on this committee, you are going to have to attend”
- Organizations are putting people on the Coordinating Team so if someone is not attending- does the Team have the responsibility to report to the organization that their representative is not participating?
- May be a need for Coordinating Team to come up with a committee of five to eight people to be elected and make decisions
 - This could be an new structure – an operational or advisory, responsible for: fostering, facilitating, supporting, providing
 - Some members dislike the idea of taking a sub-set of the Coordinating Team because everyone may not be represented, prefer not to formalize the decision-making into a different team

Working Groups

- Has at least one Coordinating Team member
- Ad hoc membership
- Established by Coordinating Team
- Solution-oriented

Further thoughts and questions about the working groups:

- Members should show an expression of commitment
- How does membership work for working groups? (Rotate?)
- Good idea to have someone on Coordinating Team on working groups
- Could staff attend all of the working groups? Would be too much if there are very many working groups

Stakeholder Forum

- Open to all
- Promotes and enables political support
- Reports LCC accomplishments and progress and receives feedback
- Identifies potential priorities, issues and needs
- Recruitment/self-nomination opportunity for Coordinating Team
- Outreach, education and technology transfer

Stakeholder Forum Activities

- Self-identify
- Occasional webinars
- Ongoing online presence
- Ad hoc meetings as identified by Executive Council or Coordinating Team
- Periodic in-person celebration and sharing

Further thoughts and questions about the Stakeholder Forum:

- Hold annual forum and periodically have a big conference workshop
 - Hold online Stakeholder Forum for those unable to attend the forum in-person
 - Transparency happens at this forum
 - Stakeholder Forum is self-identifying but stakeholders need to know the opportunity is there
 - If someone is not on the Executive Council, Coordinating Team or working group, is the Stakeholder Forum the place they come to complain?
- Stakeholders are an asset – they support with constructive comments, by doing things that stakeholders have identified as real needs, the LCC can in return get political support
- Need to take advantage of technology – use mass communication tools to allow communication to be ongoing

Further discussion and thoughts about membership in general:

- How do we fill the seats initially for the Executive Council and Coordinating Team?
 - Invite people to apply – have them describe the resources they are prepared to bring to the table
 - Federal level – directors will assign someone
 - Nevada State Director has already been established as the lead for the BLM
 - States – governors will decide
 - Tribes – will self-select
 - Steven Crumb has list of all tribes
 - Intertribal Council of Nevada
 - Academic and NGOs – submit an expression of interest and the other members will evaluate and choose

Communication

- E-mail list of contacts is valuable
- Need a webinar periodically
- Periodic gathering, to celebrate success, if nothing else, may be a conference, sessions to share information: “here are things we are planning,” “what are we missing?”
- Need a Web site where people can read about Great Basin LCC and find information
 - Value in having open availability of information

Funding/Budget

- Other LCCs are allocating money based on a grant process
- Distribution of funding is not in the Great Basin LCC mission statement
- Does the LCC get funds? If so, a budgetary process needs to be in place, creating a whole new piece of work for the organization
- Where does the money go for funding the LCC for more than operation? Does it go to the LCC or to the organization that is doing the work?
- Any agency can receive the funds for the LCC but the LCC does not actually handle the money
 - Federal acquisition regulations apply if the LCC handles the money

Great Basin LCC and the relationship with other Great Basin organizations

- There is clearly overlap with other organizations but the LCC also needs to help support those organizations – it is a matter of trying to find a niche
 - Find an area to focus on and become a specialist – have different areas up and running for the benefit of all
 - GBRMP and GBEP overlap each other and have some overlaps with the Great Basin LCC; it does not matter who does the work but it needs to be done
 - Great Basin LCC could add value on research
- Are other Great Basin organizations going to see the value in participating with the Great Basin LCC?
- Concern about the size of the LCC- have representation by everyone
 - To have a hub, you really need to have all these people at the table

Penny asked participants if they saw this organization providing value or something that is not already in the Great Basin. She said she would check in with everyone in the morning to make sure everyone is using the same words and saying the same thing about the Great Basin LCC. She said it is important that everyone understands what the mission statement is really trying to say and that we really want this group to have consistency for when we take this out to the broader group.

Friday, July 23, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Thursday recap

Penny recapped the previous day's meeting and asked participants, "What is an LCC?" Participants answered the following:

The Great Basin LCC is an organization that coalesces those organizations and groups working in the Great Basin to look at a science-based approach, both human and ecological. It is organized by an Executive Board and Steering Group and also has a forum for those individuals that want to participate.

The Great Basin LCC is a group that fosters communication around climate change and other disturbance issues. It provides tools and services to help other organizations, and this group will serve as a forum for those groups to come together. The goal is not to duplicate efforts.

The Great Basin LCC is a hub that brings all the people working in Great Basin together to get a better understanding of ecosystems and change associated with climate, and to solve problems in a coordinated way.

There are lots of different groups working in different places in the Great Basin and working on various issues. The Great Basin LCC is basically a way for the left hand to know what the right hand is doing. It is the one central place to go to find out what is being done, to find people doing similar things, to help people find each other in order to coordinate and collaborate.

The Great Basin LCC has pulled together a way to communicate with other LCCs and other NGOs in a way to support each other so people can make more progress rather than duplicate efforts.

The Great Basin LCC facilitates data integration and monitoring across the Great Basin. It provides the real key to be able to get everyone at the table and chart a path forward together instead of doing it individually. The ability that the Great Basin LCC brings with it is the commitment and resources from the Department of Interior to make this work.

The Great Basin LCC is for anyone involved in management issues, restoration, or research to address the issues we are faced with in the Great Basin. It is a place for organizations, groups and individuals to network with others, and a place to access resources. There is not yet a group doing this across the Great Basin.

Decision-making

Executive Council:

Decision-making is done via consensus, and when that is not possible, consensus of 75% will be reached with a minority report.

Participants drafted the above statement about decision-making for the Executive Council and asked that the meeting summary reflect the discussion that led to this statement. The group identified the options for decision-making as: by consensus, having one decision-maker, by vote, or by consensus with a minority report (that will or will not block the decision). The following points were discussed:

Consensus

- It is very important that people on the Executive Council understand the art of consensus – they need to be people who know how to work in a group
- How committed the group is to consensus can become an organizational value
- Do not want to give any group or unit veto power
- What constitutes a consensus?
 - 51% is not a consensus, is 90% a consensus?
 - Do you need a quorum, 2/3 of quorum or 2/3 of entire membership?
 - Group agreed 3/4 is better is better than 2/3
 - Do not need a quorum, just those members present
 - Members are allowed to be present electronically
- Need to remember that this is a voluntary organization and if you make decisive decisions that people do not agree with, they are going to drop off
- There is fine line between “very important and we need to do it,” and “we cannot agree on this”

One decision-maker

- This was not considered as a realistic option by the group

By vote

- When there is majority voting, there is almost always a minority and by this method there is no effort to reach a compromise; consensus *is* the ultimate compromise

Consensus with a minority report (that will or will not block the decision)

- Consensus with a minority report that will not block allows you to go back in time and look at what happened and see what the issues were
- Do not like the idea of having minority report as a quick option or quick default
- Minority report is not a desirable outcome but is an acceptable report if consensus is not possible

Executive Council Meetings:

- Should meet face-to-face once or twice a year
- Council meetings should also be live with conference call-in number and possibly video-conference (Go-to-meeting, Webinar)
- Some partners will not be able to travel – LCC could provide some money for travel assistance
- Executive Council needs a chair to run the meeting
 - Executive Council elects the chair
 - Chair runs the meeting, keeps it orderly, has skills to keep things moving
- Also on the Council is a Vice-Chair (who then becomes the Chair), and the Past Chair

Coordinating Team

Participants had a lengthy discussion about the decision-making of the Coordinating Team, specifically, how the Coordinator would interact with the Team and whether the Coordinator would report to the Coordinating Team or the Executive Council. Additionally, there was discussion about if the Coordinator should be Chair of the Coordinating Team. The group did not come to consensus on which entity the Coordinator would report to and decided to present both options to the broader Great Basin stakeholder group for their input. Participants did come to consensus that the Coordinator should *not* be the Coordinating Team Chair but agreed that there should be a Chair. The group agreed that the Coordinator should be the link between the Coordinating Team and the Executive Council, and emphasized that the Coordinator will serve as the “hub” for the LCC.

Decision-making

- Decision-making should be made via consensus, elevate to the Executive Council if consensus cannot be reached
- Can revise by-laws with Executive Council approval
- Establishes working groups
- Makes tactical, pragmatic decisions about how to get things done

Roles and responsibilities of the Chair

- Responsible for chairing/facilitating the meeting
- Primary point of contact for the Coordinator

Roles and responsibilities of the Coordinator

- Provides support to meetings (planning ,resources)
- Serve as the link between Coordinating Team and Executive Council

- Builds relationships with all of the committees

The following points were discussed leading to the above bullet points:

- Should the Coordinator report to the Coordinating Team or the Executive Council?
 - If Coordinator reports to the Coordinating Team, then the Coordinator should not be chair

Five participants were pro Coordinating Team:

- Members on the Executive Council do not have a lot of time to do the oversight; they are busy with everything else at a big level
- The Coordinator will technically be under someone in the funding agency on paper, that person comes to the Coordinating Team and asks them to do the evaluation based on feedback from Coordinating Team
- Coordinator is doing work at the coordinating level, so the supervision should be at that level, not with the Executive Council
- If the Coordinator is reporting to the Executive Council then the incentive for that person would be to do Executive Council work. If they are being evaluated by a different group than the group they are working for, they will not care as much about the group they are working for.

Three participants were pro Executive Council:

- Executive Council gives you more autonomy
- Concerns about conflict of interest if Coordinating Team is evaluating Coordinator
- Concern with having 30+ people overseeing Coordinator if reporting to Coordinating Team
- Should the Coordinator of the LCC be the chair of the Coordinating Team?
 - Coordinator has resources, can coordinate and they know the rules
 - Makes sense because Coordinator will pull everyone together and will know what needs to be done
 - Coordinator should be the facilitator but not an active member of the Team
 - Coordinator should not be the facilitator, there is enough on their plate already
 - Chair position is a considerable amount of work
 - If the Coordinator is the Chair, then staff should be under the Executive Council instead of the Coordinating Team
- Someone has to set up the room, organize the room, take notes, who will do that?
 - Develop an operational working group for these tasks
- Coordinating Team could be made up of all chairs of the working groups
 - Or the opposite: someone on Coordinating Team has to be on working groups
- How do you maintain continuity between the Executive Council and Coordinating Team?
 - Should chair of the Coordinating Team be on the Executive Council?

- GBRMP has a liaison between the two groups
- Someone from the Coordinating Team would go to Executive Council meetings
- Coordinator should be the link between the two groups

Resources

Mike Pellant told the group about the resources currently available to the Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative:

- The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is hiring a research-grade scientist in the Snake River to be part of the LCC staff. This is a permanent, full-time, landscape ecologist position. The person will probably be located in Boise as part of the Biological Resources Division. Additionally, there is budget for a PhD or Masters student, which would provide two to three years of GIS assistance.
- The BLM is funding a full-time Great Basin LCC Coordinator for fiscal year 2011. BLM wants to get the position advertised soon, but also wants to have the Executive Council have input during the hiring process, as well as determining where the position will be located.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service volunteered to fund a full-time Science Coordinator position for fiscal year 2011.
- Would like to time this so Coordinating Team is in place when these positions go onboard
- There is an additional \$200,000 tentatively held at the Washington Office for LCC operations
- Interested in having other partners step forward with resources

Additional Resources needed

Penny facilitated a discussion in which participants identified further resources that are needed for the different parts of the Great Basin LCC. They identified the following needs.

Executive Council:

- Meeting logistics (electronic participation support), minutes
- Travel assistance

Coordinating Team:

- Meeting logistics (electronic participation support), minutes
- Travel assistance
- Spreadsheets – (labor, coordination)
- Web presence
- Reports and presentations – printing costs
- Technical expertise (labor)
- Stakeholder forum

Working Groups

- Facilitator
- Note taker
- Meeting logistics
- GIS support, technical expertise (service and labor)
- Reports and presentations

Additional staff needs:

- Administrative staff
- Outreach person (e-mail list, Web site)
 - Admin/Outreach person could be combined in the first year
- Data coordination (long-term need)
- GIS support
 - GIS support may not be a priority in the first year

Other thoughts and comments:

- Should have a working group engaged in developing tools
- Coordinator is responsible for reporting out about success
- Need to determine who convenes the Stakeholder Forum
- Landscape ecologist will be doing research that is identified as a priority by the Great Basin LCC
- The Science Coordinator will work with the Climate Science Centers to vet science proposals
- Executive Council needs to discuss:
 - Staff selection criteria
 - Staff location

Schedule

The following schedule was developed by the group, corresponding with the schedule recommended at the May meetings. Discussion points about each activity follow.

Proposed Schedule:

Activity	Date
Introductory Webinar	Late August
Basin-Wide Meeting	Friday, October 29 (Reno proposed as location)
Basin-Wide Meeting Webinar	Week of November 1
Organizing Committee Meeting	November 4 (in-person or via Webinar)
Executive Council Meeting	Week of November 29

Basin-Wide Meeting, October 29

- Talk about what an LCC is, what the Great Basin LCC is, and how it will operate
- Location of Basin-Wide meeting- Salt Lake, Reno or Boise?
 - Participants proposed Reno
- The Department of Interior financial system is down September 22 through November 1 – should the meeting be held before or after?
 - Basin-Wide meeting in September is too soon to get it on people’s calendars, the end of October is better
- Audience for the Great Basin?
 - Everyone from May meetings
 - Add additional NGOs, private landowners, and other stakeholders missing from May meetings

Organizing Committee Meeting, November 4

- Probably electronic meeting rather than in-person (depending on feedback throughout this process)
- Face-to-face meeting at the end of the day of Basin-wide meeting or the following morning?
 - Better to have time to synthesize all of the feedback from meeting and Webinar before Organizing Committee meets

Executive Council Meeting, Week of November 29

- Set up Executive Council
- Need to start notifying Governors we are starting this work
- How do we do select NGOs?
 - Executive Council may change composition with different NGOs at the meeting, for example
 - Whichever NGO is selected should have the authority to determine who fills that seat

Communication and outreach

The group identified several pieces that will be crucial for successful communication as the Great Basin LCC is formed. Participants stressed the need to identify all of the key collaborators and stakeholders to make sure they get information about this new organization early on in the process. They said the Great Basin LCC will not be successful without their support and buy-in. The group recommended developing a briefing package, consisting of a one-to-two page description of the LCC and a set of questions for stakeholders to respond to, to initiate contact with different groups and begin dialogue. The set of questions could be provided in a one-page template that stakeholders could fill out and send back for compilation. Additionally, participants recommended setting up a Great Basin LCC Web site to post documents, information and to solicit feedback.

Other thoughts and comments:

- Key collaborators – identify the key groups that really need to get information
- Need to make sure ongoing efforts in the Great Basin are supportive of this organization, we cannot achieve our mission without their support and their buy-in
- Develop a briefing package: 1-2 page description of the Great Basin LCC and then a series of questions to ask people and get feedback

- Is it filling a niche?
 - Do you want to be on the contact list?
 - Who else should receive this information?
- How do we capture feedback on briefing package?
 - Provide a one-page template for people to fill out: send it out and compile
 - Set up a mailbox for comments
- Post all information on a Great Basin LCC Web site
 - Produce documents that members can get on and download
 - Direct stakeholders to the Web site to make comments
- Fact sheet – do not want it to look like it is BLM or FWS lead, Great Basin LCC needs its own logo
 - The banner for the Central Great Basin is a juniper tree and a mule deer – could use that for now as the logo
- Organizing committee will be communicating with key collaborators
 - Shot-gun approach
 - External Affairs of each state has a list of organizations in the state

Organizing Committee members will give Great Basin LCC updates to the following groups:

- Great Basin Research and Management Partnership – Mike will update on a conference call for their Coordinating Committee
- Great Basin Environmental Program – Mike will update at meeting on August 17
- Utah Partners – Mike
- Intermountain West Joint Venture – Sara
- Oregon Department of Wildlife – Sara
- Oregon Governor’s office – Sara
- Monthly meeting with all the state and federal agencies in Utah that manage water or land – Nat will update in August or September
- Governor’s conference with NGOs in Utah – Rang
- Additionally, Mike is trying to update other regional organizations

Interim Executive Council

The group discussed how and when the Executive Council would be identified and decided to make recommendations on who would be on the Interim Executive Council. This would enable the Organizing Committee to start sending out save-the-dates for agencies and other organizations that may need three-month advance notice before the meeting. The following organizations and individuals were identified:

Interim Executive Council

Organization	Representative
USFWS	Bob Williams
USGS	Sue Phillips
NRCS	Randy will contact

The Nature Conservancy	TBD
Intermountain West Joint Venture	TBD
University of Nevada - Reno	TBD
Utah State	TBD
Public Lands Council of National Cattlemen Association	Joe and Randy will find contact
Nevada or Utah Power	Joe and Randy will find contact
Tribes	TBD

Other thoughts and comments:

- Identify the Interim Executive Council members in the draft report as recommendations – recognize that this is a work-in-progress
- Important to remember that potential Executive Council members may be booked two to three months in advance – need to contact them early
- The timing of notification for NGOs and the states is important
- Does the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) need to be considered?
- Until Executive Council is up and running, the Organizing Committee is the authority to determine the structure and makeup of the Executive Council
- Funding for the LCC Coordinator position is available October 1, every day past that day, some of the money goes somewhere else
 - LCC will be more successful with this position in place
- Group decided to give power to themselves to determine some key NGO partners
 - 4 NGO positions
 - 2 Research community positions
- Defenders of Wildlife does not have a great presence in the Great Basin

Next steps and closing

Penny thanked everyone for coming and working so hard the past three days. She said EnviroIssues would distribute the meeting summary and begin working on the other identified tasks. Penny told participants they would be hearing from them soon.

The following next steps were identified throughout the three days:

Action Item	Responsible
Draft meeting summary	EnviroIssues
Add GB LCC PowerPoint to Google Groups	EnviroIssues
Send lists of Great Basin Contacts to EnviroIssues	Organizing Committee
Create briefing package (description of LCC and list of standard questions and answers)	EnviroIssues
Create narrative to explain thinking behind the mission statement,	EnviroIssues

structure, etc for distribution	
Create work plan	EnviroIssues
Find list of all tribes in the Great Basin	All/EnviroIssues
Create Web Site with basic information and associated mail box	Mike Pellant
Identify contact from NRCS for Interim Executive Council	Randy Sharp
Identify contact from Public Lands Council of National Cattlemen Association for Interim Executive Council	Randy Sharp and Joe Tague
Identify contact from Nevada or Utah Power for Interim Executive Council	Randy Sharp and Joe Tague
Send letters to the Interim Executive Council	EnviroIssues