

Southwestern Crown of the Continent Monitoring Committee
Meeting Notes
December 1, 2010

Present: Ilana Abrahamson, Tom Bansak, Travis Belote, Jill Belsky, Megan Birzell, Chris Bryant, Jim Burchfield, Gary Burnett, Anne Carlson, Gunnar Carnwath, Jon Haufler, Dick Hutto, Amber Kamps, Joe Kerkvliet, Adam Lieberg, Tim Love, Cara Nelson, Bruce Rieman, Keith Stockmann, Susan Sweet,

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1, 2010, at Lubrecht Forest.

The agenda identified five scheduled objectives: (1) determine progress on conceptual models for restoration goals and provide recommendations to support the group developing conceptual models; (2) confirm activities being proposed by the Weeds Working Group and clarify how this work will be represented in work plans and to the public; (3) agree on mechanics of a communication strategy, including the web page; (4) determine monitoring activities beyond those with the Weeds Working Group to be undertaken in 2011 and how they will be represented in the monitoring work plan; and (5) provide an update on working groups addressing fire/fuels, social/economic conditions, and aquatics.

The November 8, 2010 minutes of the Monitoring Committee were approved as written.

The Committee discussed progress on the conceptual models for restoration and questions regarding the factors limiting such progress. It was generally agreed by those in attendance that in order for the Monitoring Committee to make substantial progress on its tasks it is important to clearly identify any factors limiting said progress. Additionally it was agreed that a conceptual model could be conducive to identifying such factors. A diagram of a conceptual model developed prior to the meeting by several members of the Monitoring Committee was distributed. The model was suggested as a starting point to be considered and enhanced, with suggestions for revision to be addressed to Travis.

Concern was expressed regarding the means by which the Committee can be confident that it is proceeding in the right direction. The suggestion was made that smaller groups within the Committee develop a series of explanations of how to link specific prescribed treatments to existing and future conditions on the ground. It was emphasized that the managers who will be implementing the treatment plans must be involved in the process, which will include coming to an agreement regarding the desired, normative, future condition(s).

Discussion followed regarding specifics of the process to be followed in order to define and clarify the objectives the Committee intends to pursue. Of particular concern was whether or not the Monitoring Committee would be correct in taking the initiative in defining objectives for the greater Collaborative.

Jim Burchfield recommended that five teams be formed: aquatics (including fish), fire and fuels, vegetation, socioeconomic, and wildlife. These teams would be charged with defining objectives for restoration and with devising measurable indicators of the effectiveness of treatments toward

objectives. The teams should be prepared to report on their work during the next Monitoring Committee meeting, in approximately two weeks' time.

A thumbs up/thumbs down vote on the recommendation was taken. There were seven thumbs up, one across and none down. **The recommendation was approved.**

In reference to the approved recommendation, five teams were formed as follows. Tom Bansak and Bruce Rieman will lead the aquatics team. Joe Kerkvliet will lead the socioeconomic team comprised of himself, Jill Belsky, Megan Birzell and Tim Love. Jim Rittering will lead the fire/fuel team comprised of himself and John Ingebretson. Travis Belote and Ilana Abrahamson will lead the vegetation team comprised of themselves, Jon Haufler, Cara Nelson, Gunnar Carnwath and Anne Carlson. Dick Hutto and John Ingebretson will lead the wildlife team comprised of themselves, Adam Lieberg, Gunnar, Anne, and Beth Hahn.

Megan Birzell will build an organizational chart to facilitate and elucidate the work process of the teams. In order to establish a uniform format Jim Burchfield will create and provide a Power Point template with slide titles to be used by the five teams for the purpose of identifying how objectives and measurable standards could be portrayed.

Ilana Abrahamson will write up a report from the Weed Group to be used as an example to assist the five teams.

The Committee conducted an exchange of information regarding progress toward a SW Crown web page and the determination of communication responsibilities for the Monitoring Committee.

Megan Birzell reported that she understands the responsibilities of her new position to maintain forward momentum in each of the committees and groups within the Southwest Crown Collaborative. She will remain informed regarding the current work of each working group, seeing that the monitoring plan is accomplished and serving as a knowledgeable liaison for all the partners.

A discussion followed of the qualifications that will be required in the coordinator position yet to be filled. Qualifications suggested included expertise with GIS; the ability to produce, locate, and synthesize data, to interface with and coordinate among managers, and to facilitate the production of the Annual Report through the collection and organization of data.

Cara Nelson agreed to chair a committee to compose the position advertisement and post it, with a closing date of January 15, 2011. She will send to committee members for comment a list of qualities sought in the potential employee.

Determinations still to be made include who will supervise the position and where the appropriate office space will be located.

Joe Kerkvliet reported on the recent activity of the Socioeconomic Working Group. The group has generated six specific proposals to which they will in the immediate future attach indicators of success.

The indicators will be defined with reference to such factors as the fire-wise behavior of landowners, the economic impacts of treatments, the investments of time, effort and capital made by contractors, the costs of road decommission, and the response by the public to ongoing restoration activity.

For information purposes Jim Burchfield distributed copies of a portion of the Annual Report. It contains the description of the results of the multiparty monitoring, evaluation, and accountability process.

The next meeting of the SWCC Monitoring Committee will be conducted at Lubrecht Forest during the week of December 13-17, 2010. A Doodle Poll will be conducted regarding availability of interested participants, and the exact meeting schedule announced as far in advance as possible.

Due to the fact that a significant number of attendees were obligated to leave the meeting by 4:30, **the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.**