

Minutes NGO Meeting

College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources

December 4, 2009

Participating NGOs and College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR) faculty: Christopher Fichtel (The Nature Conservancy), Alan Gubanich (Audubon), Tom Harris (NRDC), Dan Kaffer (RCD), Betsy Macfarlan (ENLC), Kurt Pregitzer (UNR), Scott Shonkwiler (UNR), Esmail Zanjani (UNR), Lynn Zimmerman (Great Basin Institute), Rang Narayanan (UNR), Stan Johnson (UNR) and Bob Alverts (UNR).

1. The meeting commenced at 11:30 am with a round of introductions and discussions of the organizations that were represented. There was as well a discussion of the agenda (attached).
2. A power point update of the developments related to the Great Basin Environmental project was presented and discussed (attached for your information). In addition to the six thematic areas of activity, the power point and following discussions reflected the fact that the general focus of the GBEP is invasive species and their relationship to all of the six thematic areas.
3. USDA agreement that was finalized about 2 months ago was discussed. The funded proposal provides \$197,000 for GBEP for FY09 budget. Copies of this agreement were distributed. If there are questions about it or would like a copy of it, please be in contact with Rang and Stan.
4. There was a discussion of the sub contracting arrangements with the four other state land grant universities that are a part of the Great Basin---we have subcontracted about ½ of the total USDA grant to these universities--\$25,000 to Utah, Oregon and Idaho and \$12,500 to California. Copies of the subcontracts to these universities were distributed for reference. The sub contracts are for developing NGO, federal and state partners for the GBEP in Great Basin states, and for working with UNR to put on the conference to be mentioned later. These sub contracts are now all in place except for California. The remainder of the funds will be spent on the conference, publications related to the GBEP and organizational support.
5. The arrangements with the “Partners for Conservation Development” in Utah and Nevada were discussed. We have the Nevada agreement signed and are looking forward to getting similar agreements signed by the other states. The agreements envision close cooperation between the state agencies and the land grant universities, with the Partners taking responsibility for the on-the-ground projects supported by the GBEP.
6. A copy of a draft brochure was distributed and discussed. It provides in detail the arrangements that the land grants and the Partners have agreed to. It was reviewed pointing out that a “Commission” will be appointed which will govern the project. There will be representation of all parties in the Commission

including the NGOs. The brochure is still lacking specific programmatic proposals for research, education, on-the-ground projects and metrics/monitoring for each of the six areas that are identified in the GBEP.

7. There was a discussion of what the GBEP could do that would be valuable both to the NGOs and to the partnership. After discussion, it was agreed that Nevada would make a summary of the activities of the NGOs in the GB, and their ideas about projects that they were looking for funding to undertake. It was further agreed that the documentation will contain the current status of 3 or 4 top activities (particularly if any relate to invasive species) of NGOs as well as a forward looking assessment of 2 or 3 priorities for future plans and aspirations. Rang and Stan agreed to develop a template for collecting this information and send for comments to all of the NGOs. This information will be both on the website and in print for distribution with individual NGO logos. The template will be finalized based on comments and perhaps a few iterations back and forth with the NGOs. We discussed getting similar information from NGOs in other states and combining it with inventories of state agency and federal agency projects and with research from the universities into a live and updated document that could be used for planning and implementing the GBEP.
8. The meeting adjourned at about 1:30 pm