

**Great Basin Environmental Program Acting Commission Meeting Notes  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, NV Jan. 6-7, 2010**

**Participants:**

Rang Narayanan, UNR  
Stan Johnson, UNR  
Bob Alverts, UNR  
Genie Montblanc, UNR  
Jodi Stephens, UNR  
Larry Curtis, OSU  
Chuck Gay, USU  
Nat Frazer, USU  
Kathleen Clarke, Utah Dept. of Ag. and Food  
Donn Thill, UI  
Steve Bunting, UI  
Tim Prather, UI  
Dave Lile, UC Davis  
Steve Siegel, NDOW  
Bob Conrad, NDCNR

**Action and Discussion Items:**

**Key Action Items** [the notes below contain additional information r/e action items and meeting discussion]

- States work with Governors to get complete set of Acting Commission Members as soon as possible (see list below)
  
- State Meetings with NGOs and state and federal agencies [all meetings should be done by Sept 2010. They are expected to be 1 day sessions. Discussion should include: overview and background of GBEP, planning for 2011 conference, brochures and website information, getting inventories of ongoing work completed plus unmet needs identified for new work, information sharing between groups, opportunities to help market program]
  - California: planned for April, dates pending
  - Idaho: no schedule yet, dates pending
  - Nevada: NGO meeting held Dec '09, federal and state agency meetings yet to be held, dates pending
  - Oregon: NGO meeting set for Feb 16-17 in Bend, state and federal agency set for Portland during the week of Feb 22-26
  - Utah: no schedule yet, dates pending

- complete one and 3-6 page brochures prior to the CARET meetings [Rang and Bob Conrad to organize]
- complete short brochure for next week's weed meeting (for Tim Prather) [Rang and Bob Conrad to organize]
- We need to settle on map of the GBEP area that includes the 5 state area (see notes below) [Acting Commission members need to forward data on the different maps and definitions so they can be evaluated]
- States need to send in information about their Great Basin land areas with info on areas, square miles, population, Cong District, etc. (see notes below)
- Genie will update the website and revise format using Bob Conrad's brochure style
- Each state needs to review and make suggestions on website content by Jan 19
- Large 2 day conference planned for Reno in 2011, to be organized around Congressional recess dates (see notes below)
- Acting Commission will serve as initial planning group for conference, sub-group to be named during the Feb 2 conference call
- Nevada will test inventory template and send out for others to use. Will also put on website. Nevada will complete inventory of NGO projects by Feb 28
- States will work to collect inventory details from NGOs, universities, and state and federal agencies
- Thematic team leads and team members need to be selected. Each state will identify 4 names for each theme by Feb 28 (see notes below)
- Each thematic group will complete a set of at least 3 priority proposals for each theme of the 6 themes by June 15 (see notes below) [UNR will develop template]
- Monthly conference calls will be set for the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm pacific time. The first call will be 2:00 pm on Feb 2.
- Acting Commission will meet every other month in Reno. Next meeting will be during the last week of March or first week of April [dates and details pending. Rang will send out Doodle request]

## **Discussion Items:**

### **Commission membership:**

- Members agreed there should be at least 2 members from each state (1 land grant academic rep. and 1 agency rep.) See names of Acting Commission members below as of Jan. 2010, page 8)
- Each state will determine the appropriate tribal representation/involvement
- Form Acting Commission to keep decision-making group functional
- States will work with Governors to designate remaining Commission members (see list below, page 8)
- Many governance and procedural details remain to be worked on as the program evolves (e.g., policy manual, operational processes and procedures)

### **State Meetings with NGOs and agencies**

- Nevada held a meeting with NGOs in Dec '09. Meetings with state and federal agencies have not been held
- Utah has not yet held specific meetings with NGOs or agencies.
- Agencies are in the loop via the Utah Partners agreement, and NGOs actively involved with in-state activities
- Utah held productive session with urban legislators
- Kathleen will contact Mike Pellant, BLM and Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester r/e their awareness/involvement
- Larry Curtis has meetings planned for Oregon: NGO meeting in Bend, Feb 16-17. Fed and state agency meeting during the week of Feb 22-26 in Portland.
- Idaho will get organized soon. Rang suggested interaction with Dave Torell of Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation and their major initiative in southeastern Idaho.
- Idaho has existing foundation groups who are actively involved: weeds coalition group, healthy habitats group and rangeland resource commission
- California will be doing one on one sessions over the next 2 months, with meetings planned for April. They will build on existing relationships with 4 major NGOs

-- Consider adding business interests (e.g., retail, banking, high tech, energy companies), professional societies, and other groups, including non-traditional ones to NGO lists

-- States should attempt to get NGO meetings done in time for their assistance with lobbying efforts during summer. We recognize the differences within the represented states, but meetings should be completed between February and September 2010.

--UNR offered to assist states with their state meetings:

- presentations
- background and history
- names and contacts
- letter templates, etc

### **Brochures and Related Marketing Tools**

-- Be sure we are consistent with our messages and priorities

-- Help promote GBEP through other major meetings and conventions

-- Prepare lists of upcoming major meetings and national conventions where we have a chance to share our messages

-- Prepare variety of marketing tools, including the following examples:

- 1 pager (useful to Congressional delegates)
- 3-6 pagers (useful to Legislative Assistants)
- 5 plus pagers useful to NGOs

-- Begin with one and 3-6 pagers (Rang indicated a draft will be done within 2 weeks)

-- Bob Conrad will work on initial document that should be immediately useful for weed conference and UI (Tim Prather, week of Jan 10-15)

-- Make the one and 3-6 pagers adaptable, addressing key political info: population, square miles/acres, # Congressional Districts, # counties, impacts/outcomes (jobs, improved, economy, improved environment, career opportunities in rural areas, etc)

-- Cover key political priorities (e.g., climate change and effect of replacing cheatgrass through restoration projects, reducing greenhouse gas discharge)

-- Include accomplishments and positive things as well as threats/problem issues

- Share quotes of what's going on and why people should care

### **Defining the Great Basin**

- We need to define the Great Basin geography for this program, adopting a credible, scientifically defensible definition (look at Bailey, Omernink, FS, BLM, other sources).

- We should confine to the 5 states currently represented

- Each state is to provide a list of counties, acres/square miles, population, Congressional District, ecoregions?

### **Website**

- Genie and Bob Conrad will modify the website to include:
  - members only section (include budget, state agreements, letter templates, power point, brochures, summary docs, etc.)
  - add section that allows for public comment
  - read only format
  - mark key docs as draft until they are final
  - re-format site patterned after Bob Conrad's brochures
  - consider adding a "click here" button for contributions
  - keep updates current
  - date pages and updated info so we know the iteration
  - change budget summary page
  - correct NDOW agreement
- Acting Commission members are to review current website content and provide feedback by January 19, 2010 on suggested changes, deletions, additions, etc.

### **2010 Workshops (State Meetings) and 2011 Conference**

- Group agreed to have statewide meetings with NGOs and agencies serve as the workshops for 2010. Discussion should include promotion of the larger conference planned for 2011. Build support for the program and active involvement in the major conference
- We will develop and hold a 2 day conference in Reno during 2011. Dates will correspond with Congressional recesses (e.g., 2<sup>nd</sup> week February, Easter recess, Memorial Day recess)
- Initial conference planning group will be the Acting Commission. A sub-group will be formed during the Feb 2 conference call.

-- One of the major focal points will be state agencies; another will be the inventory of existing NGO and agency projects and their unmet needs assessment

-- All partners will be invited (universities, fed agencies, state agencies, NGOs, and private sector partners, Congressional delegations and staff, Governors offices, state legislators, etc)

### **Inventory of NGO and other projects**

-- Stan reviewed handout that will detail the list of up to 5 existing/ongoing projects that NGOs are working on in Nevada. The inventory will also include 3 projects they are planning or wish to complete

-- Draft format will be tested in Nevada soon and then revised version put on the website for use by all partners

-- Inventories of ongoing work and unmet needs will also be pursued from universities, and state and federal agencies

-- This information will be valuable and should be part of the agenda at the 2011 conference

### **Selecting Thematic Topic Leads and Team Members**

-- We need to select thematic topic leads and team members for each of the 6 categories. States will identify 4 names for each of the themes by February 28, 2010. Teams will be comprised of 5-7 members including a lead member.

-- At least 3 proposals are to be developed for each theme:

- 1 dealing with metrics
- 1 for an on-the-ground project
- 1 for a research need

-- UNR staff will develop criteria and format details for each of the teams to follow

-- Teams need to complete their needs/issues list by June 15, 2010, so results can be used during summer lobbying efforts

### **Upcoming DC Meetings**

-- Each university will meet with their CARET partners prior to the DC CARET meeting. Key will be consistent, coordinated message and info.

-- A breakfast meeting will be held at 6:30 am on Tuesday, Feb 23 at the Key Bridge Marriott to get everyone coordinated prior to the CARET meeting. Details to follow.

-- All participants will need the overview brochure and the 1 page summary doc, plus the appropriation request document

-- Each state is requested to share dates for DC visits and consider joint visits

-- A series of meetings with Cong. Delegations will also be developed that week, along with possible meetings with the following federal agencies: ARS, BLM, NRCS, FS, NPS, NIFA, FWS, USGS?

### **Involvement with Western Governors' Association**

-- Group will pursue relationship with WGA as the program evolves. The summer meeting will be in Montana, June 27-29.

### **Upcoming Acting Commission Meetings**

-- A conference call will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010 at 2:00 pm pst. Subsequent calls will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at the same time.

-- Our next face to face meeting will be held in Reno. Dates to be determined (sometime during the last week of March or first week of April). Subsequent meetings will be held every other month in Reno.

## **Commission Membership by State**

### **California**

Land Grant Univ. Rep: Dave Lile  
State Agency Rep: Pending

### **Idaho**

Land Grant Univ. Rep: Donn Thill  
State Agency Rep: Pending

### **Nevada**

Land Grant Univ. Reps: Rang Narayanan and Stan Johnson  
State Agency Rep: Ken Mayer, additional rep pending

### **Oregon**

Land Grant Univ. Rep: Larry Curtis  
State Agency Rep: Pending

### **Utah**

Land Grant Univ. Rep: Chuck Gay  
State Agency Reps: Kathleen Clarke, additional rep pending (Rory Reynolds?)

Meetings notes prepared 01-08-10 by BA/SJ