

**Karner Blue HCP  
Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) Meeting  
August 23, 2007  
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Jackson County Forestry & Parks  
Black River Falls**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:** Gary Birch (Chair), Jim Zahasky, Joel Aanensen, Jim Heap, Deb Frosch, Ursula Petersen, Dave Lentz, Quinn Williams, Matt Krumenauer, Kozue Nogami (recorder).

**Absent:** Steve Richter

**1. Anti-Trust Statement**

Given by Quinn Williams

**2. Approve minutes from 6-14-07**

Jim Heap motioned to approve the minutes as written; Gary Birch seconded the motion. All were in favor. Minutes stand approved.

**3. Review action items from previous meetings**

**ACTION ITEMS TO REVIEW (Today's agenda item #3):**

- Select a new IOC Chair to succeed Matt Krumenauer  
**4-18-07 Carry-over Item: No resolution for successor until August meeting.**  
Carry over. Gary to give serious consideration.  
**Gary agreed to be the new IOC Chair.**  
**Decision: All IOC members approved Gary.**
- Announce new IOC alternate for the County Forest group (by Jody):  
Jim Zahasky agreed to be the IOC representative following Jody's term.  
Alternates: Jody or Chad Ziegler (Administrator of Monroe Co. forests).  
**4-18-07 Action Item: Jody to follow up with Chad.** Jody has offered it to Chad. Chad will get back. If Chad declines, then Jody agrees to be the alternate.  
Chad declined the offer to be an IOC alternate. Jody accepts the role as of the September 27, 2007 term.
- **Construction Projects: Major vs. Minor** construction and maintenance projects (relates to pre-approval and project planning) Gary Birch and Matt Krumenauer have offered guidance:  
**Previous Action Item: Gary and Jim to develop guidelines for major and minor definitions**  
Gary and Jim have come to an agreement on the elemental parts of major and minor. The proportion of take of the whole local population will be a significant component.  
**Previous Action Item: DNR to provide staff time to Jim and Gary to help develop guidance.**

**8/23 Action Item:** DNR will provide staff time (Matt) to do this. Matt said that Dave and he would take a draft (entire "construction guideline" including major vs. minor criteria) to Cathy Carnes (USFWS) for final discussion and approval. There is nothing in final draft for the IOC to review yet. When a final draft is ready, Dave will share it with the IOC prior to taking it to the Service.

**4. Karner Blue Butterfly Conservation Fund (NRF) Report**

Dave explained the quarterly account summary and announced the current fund balance. The credits were from interest earned and the debits were from NRF administration fees. There were no other credits or expenditures.

5. **Plan Summer HCP Team Event:** Discuss options, a process and planning team to work on the event.

**NOTE: This event has been cancelled.**

Discuss alternative opportunities for recognition.

Dave explained the reasons for canceling the event. The biggest reason was an expected lack of attendance. Dave suggested that we could still recognize the partners and the ongoing success of the HCP, but in another way, for instance, a celebration during the winter meeting lunch.

6. **Permit renewal: begin planning for permit renewal**

- 10 yr. assessment (actually 8 yrs.)
- Permit renewal design: conditions/parameters

Dave shared his thoughts on how to approach the permit renewal. The IOC should take the lead by suggesting some ideas for an extended permit period. At the 2008 HCP Team's winter meeting we will discuss a permit renewal proposal and get partner feedback. The partners and the Service will benefit from being involved in this discussion (similar to when we developed the HCP).

For today's discussion:

Assessment: First question we should ask ourselves would be, "Do we have an acceptable and appropriate permit right now? If not, how would we change it to make it better? Gary added that also what kinds of land must be covered under the permit, since we have new HPR map?

Would we expect the partner enrollment would be different in an extended permit? Probably very similar HCP partnership as we have currently, but there are some partners who have very little or no land in the new HPR to justify the amount of work they do under their SHCA for the permit. Jim mentioned that depending on each partner's situation, even though the work is more than they might be able to justify for incidental take authority, they might decide to renew for other reasons. In any case, each partner will need to decide whether they should renew or not.

Q: Do we have workable permit right now? Are there any problems?

The streamlining changes made over the last two years have been good. The new High Potential Range (HPR) provides a significant focus, and for many partners, a significant reduction in the area of HCP responsibility.

From Plum Creek and Jackson County Forest's stand point, their property sizes that need to be covered and monitored for didn't change much according to the new HPR map. However, Jim Z. thinks the change in monitoring responsibilities, documentation and reporting is a positive benefit. The annual reporting and audit process should be improved to provide more streamlining.

NOTE: Dave said annual report would be different for 2007; will be designed to insure No Net Loss of Habitat indicators are featured, deletions of effectiveness monitoring, etc.; and the audit process will need to be changed because of other changes being made, e.g. in reporting "take", voluntary recovery support, etc.

What are some processes and features we would want to improve?

- Measuring take is important; Mitigation/approval/permanent take/ must be changed before the current permit runs out. The major/minor is just a part of this big section.
- Don't put/include word "recovery" in the permit. Make clear statement that HCP partnership is "Voluntary". Recovery is not HCP partner's responsibilities.
- Re-describe regulatory responsibilities by regulated activities not simply by entity categories (further clarify "participation" criteria). E.g. County forests do commercial forestry, which is a HCP regulated activity; however, they also mow their picnic areas and campsites, which is not a regulated activity. Therefore, county forests should not be regulated for everything they do.
- Demonstration of Shifting Mosaic (SM) has not been successfully done. We have learned that SM is a concept and an ecological process, and not something that is intentionally manipulated. Although stand patterns can be manipulated, artificially orchestrating a SM is not required by partners. Therefore, what value is there in demonstrating SM? This seems like something we should eliminate; emphasize following conservation measures and focus any SM design in and around recovery properties where needed.
- Administrative issues:  
Is the IOC process a good system? It was important in the initial implementation of the HCP, but will it be overkill in a simpler, streamlined permit renewal period? Can we simplify this?  
Carry over item: IOC to further discuss their role and operations in future meeting. Meetings (summer/winter); voluntary attendance? Change the set up? Evaluate the purpose of these meetings.
- Are the Articles of Partnership still appropriate and applicable?  
Action Item: IOC members to review the AOP and suggest improvements.

7. **Recovery in WI** – the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the R&R (renewal/recovery) approach: sharing the exit strategy with the partners to see what they are willing to do to hasten recovery. Dave explained what DNR is doing for recovery. Bob Hess has been hired as the recovery coordinator, has established recovery team in WI and local recovery teams associated with recovery properties. We have done significant planning to better describe the WI recovery process; are currently seeking funding, and are moving forward with recovery monitoring (estimate populations on non-federal recovery properties). Matt explained the NF&WF grant proposal that Bob, Cathy, Matt, and Dave put together. Gary explained the importance of defining the Kbb populations as Kbb numbers is how recovery goals are defined in the federal recovery plan. Achieving these goals will be needed if the Fish and Wildlife Service would possibly reduce the regulatory burden for non-recovery HCP partners in Wisconsin. Even though HCP partners have a stake in recovery, their support is voluntary; recovery and the HCP are still different things. This distinction must be clear and everyone must understand the difference.

#### 8. **Communications / Outreach & Education: Refocus and Streamline (5-Point Plan)**

- Discuss O&E Issue Brief
- Redefine Communication Plan Objectives
- Next steps?

Dave shared the issue paper of the outreach & education strategy from 5-point plan. This calls for some restructuring and refocusing of outreach & education efforts; most importantly to identify private landowners who are near the recovery properties (within BRZs), which appear to need biological support from those private lands in order achieve recovery goals.

Matt described the draft of an updated communication plan.

Action Item: IOC members to review the draft and comment back to everyone. DUE by Sep. 7, 2007. At the October 10<sup>th</sup> IOC meeting finalize the plan and decide if IOC should re-establish a new communications sub-team to implement an amended O&E plan.

By the next meeting we are hoping to take a look at Web site (test version) with new protocol/guidelines/maps/etc.

Matt presented an idea to produce Kbb Partnership luggage tags. A variety of uses were discussed. Gary asked where the money would come from. Dave's DNR outreach money can be used for a limited quantity. Would any partners be interested in purchasing this? The pricing is quantity dependent.

Action Item: IOC to let Matt know by mid-September if they would like to purchase some tags.

Jim H. asked if there are ways to help Michigan people with recovery. His company works with people in Michigan who may not know what the WI KBB HCP is or does. It would be good to have some types of outreach to people within the partners including Michigan issue talked about above.

Action Item: Matt to consider how these comments would fit in the draft communication plan.

**9. Document distribution system:** Update partners' staff roles in the HCP, e.g. key contact, operational contact, responsible to do annual report, etc.

Brief discussion on why this is important to streamlining the HCP administration for the DNR.

Action Item: Dave to send all partners a memo explaining the complexity of the distribution system and the difficulty the DNR has in assuring all the right staff at each partner is notified for each of a variety of HCP issues, e.g. annual reports, monitoring information, etc. Kozue and Dave develop a proposal to share with partners for their comments that will streamline this system.

**10. Winter HCP Team Meeting - Begin planning**

- Discuss program ideas
  - Ask partners if summer field trip/picnic is still a good thing to do. If not, are there other things that would be more useful? E.g. habitat restoration on recovery areas, Jackson Co Forest jack pine barrens winter field trip.
  - Celebrate success and partner recognition: Would need a clear reason to celebrate, e.g. NF&WF grant awarded, a celebrity endorsement such as the Director of FWS recognizing the partners' success.
  - Discuss possible exit strategies (light at the end of the tunnel; targets): meet recovery goals, significant portion of range, and determination of different sub-species, e.g. that WI Kbb is a hybrid.
  - Demonstration new features of Kbb website
  - Discuss permit renewal
  - What is the national Kbb status?
  - Communication Plan (updated draft)
  - Update to partners' App. A (lands included)

- Set a date(s): early to mid-February
  - Location: mid-state, e.g. Wausau, Point, maybe Dells
- Action: Matt to check into venues' availability.

### 11. Update lands included database for new High Potential Range

Dave explained that the extensive “lands included” for the old HPR is a data management/logistics problem for the DNR. It would be an improvement to scale down the “lands included” to reflect the land in the new HPR. The IOC agreed that we would pursue this change.

- Do we do this now or at ITP renewal? Both.

Now: Ask partners who need coverage in the new HPR “bump-out” areas to inform Kozue of these lands.

Action: Kozue will email partners and ask if they have land in the expanded areas of the new HPR, which they want included in Appendix A of their SHCA.

By renewal time: IOC will present a proposal at the winter HCP team meeting that partners “re-declare” the land in the new HPR that they want included under the permit.

- What criteria will guide partners in deciding what land to include or not?

Action: Gary and Kozue will develop instructions on how to update lands included; discuss proposal at October 10th IOC meeting.

Action: Gary and Jim will develop mapping examples for the winter meeting.

### 12. Closing:

- Next scheduled IOC meeting: October 10, 2007 from 9:30 – 2:30 (Schmeeckle Reserve, Stevens Point)