March 27, 2013

From: Rick Bennett and Peggy Shute, NR Indicators/ Surrogate Species Work Group Leaders

Subject: Pre-session planning for the upcoming AppLCC Workshop April 23 - 24

Dear Indicators and Surrogate Species Work Group Members:

Thanks for agreeing to participate in AppLCC April meeting. You have been assigned to “Group B” which will focus on two related categories of Tasks which we refer to as “NR Indications/Surrogate Species and Data Issues Work Groups”. If you prefer to work with Group A “Programmatic Alignment/Strategic Engagement and Communications,” please contact staff Facilitator, bridgett\_constanzo@fws.gov.

This email is to provide you an opportunity to review our Work Group Agenda and to make you aware of an upcoming 15-30 minute conference call where we can provide an overview to the session we have planned.

1. A quick 30-minute conference call will be held for our Work Group only, on April 3 at 3 PM Eastern.
2. We will discuss the agenda and prep materials available for you.
3. Conference call number:
	1. 605-475-4000
	2. Pin: 559352

**Our Work Group has 3 Major Objectives**

1.       Critically evaluate the Indicator Tasks and Objectives of the AppLCC 5-Year Work Plan. Then, provide a careful review and prioritization based on needs, opportunity, and Members’ willingness and ability invest time, talent, and treasure into the selected priority (Task/Objective) as organized by “Thematic Work Group;”

2.      Time permitting, identify benchmarks, metrics, and tactics selected based on perceived value to the AppLCC community and partners; and

3.       Based on the previous steps to ascertain if there is critical mass of partners willing to advance the work in order to be successful and/or to modify prioritization, allocation of resources or investment.  Make recommendations to the full Steering Committee for action.

We have expanded the conference agenda below to include our specific group agenda; the bold items under the yellow highlighted areas.

**Note:** Most of you will also be participating in the Data Issues Work Group that will begin their work efforts after the conclusion of our session.

**Monday April 22nd** [Huckleberry Room, 2nd floor, Inn@VT]

Work Group Leaders (only) **4:30-6:00 PM**

**Tuesday April 23rd**[Plenary: Solitude Room, 2nd floor, Inn@VT]

\*Breakfast Bar served outside meeting room beginning at 7:30AM

8:00-9:00 AM -- Opening Session: Full SC meeting: Solitude Room: Plenary

9:00-12:00 PM -- work in focued Work Groups (A or B) - Go to Breakout Rooms as Assigned

A. Programmatic Alignment/Strategic Engagement and Communications;

B. NR (Landscape-level Management) Indicators/ Surrogate Species and Data Issues

**9:00 AM Welcome and Introductions**

**9:15 AM Overview of Indicator Species Process**

**9:30 AM Presentations of Previous Approaches**

**--Bridgett Costanzo, AppLCC – Overview Presentation**

**--Rua Mordecai, South Atlantic LCC – SALCC Indicator Process**

**--Rick Bennett, FWS Region 5 – “Representative” Species Process**

**10:00 AM Break**

**10:15 AM Group Discussion on Indicator Process**

**11:00 AM Develop Broad Guidelines for Creating an Indicator Process**

12:00-1:30 PM – Lunch provided at the Inn@VT dining restaurant

1:30-4:30 PM – Continue in Thematic Work Groups – Go to Breakout Rooms as Assigned

**1:30 PM Finalize Indicator Process Design Discussion**

**2:30 PM Prepare Indicator Talking Points and Decision Points for Plenary**

**3:00 PM Break**

**3:15 PM Overview Presentations on Data Issues**

**Pre-Recorded Projection]--Paul Leonard, AppLCC – Overview of AppLCC Web Portal (and design criteria)**

**[Pre-Recorded Projection]--Rob Baldwin, Clemson -- Overview of the AppLCCData Architecture**

**[Pre-Recorded Projection] --Rua Mordecai, SALCC – Data Lessons learned (and discussion on design criteria) in Southeastern Conservation Atlas, Data Basin, and Landscape Conservation Mapping**

**4:15 PM Sequence the Data Actions from the Work Plan**

4:30-5:30 PM – Plenary – Recap and Review for Next Day’s tasks

6:30 PM \*Optional Group Dinner (on your own) at the Palisades Restaurant in Giles County (Car-pooling will be arranged)

**Wednesday April 24th**[Plenary: Solitude Room, 2nd floor, Inn@VT]

\*Breakfast Bar served outside meeting room beginning at 7:30AM

8:00-9:00 AM -- Opening Session: Full SC meeting: Solitude Room: Plenary

9:00-12:00 PM -- work in focused Work Groups (A or B) - Go to Breakout Rooms as Assigned

A. Programmatic Alignment/Strategic Engagement and Communications;

B. NR (Landscape-level Management) Indicators/Surrogate Species and Data Issues

**9:00 AM Address and Plan Actions in Sequence Order**

 **10:00 AM Break**

**10:15 AM Address and Plan Actions in Sequence Order**

**11:00 AM Summarize and Develop Recommendations**

12:00-1:30 PM – Lunch provided at the Inn@VT dining restaurant

1:30-4:00 PM – Plenary – Full Steering Committee Meeting (and Voting if Requested.)

**NR Indicators/ Surrogate Species Work Group: From the 5-year Work Plan**

Objective 2.7 as identified in the Appalachian LCC 5 year work plan states:

Tasks identified under Objective 2.7 are as follows;

2.7.1 Ensure adequate representation of the Appalachian LCC expertise in relevant US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional [surrogate species] workshops and events.

2.7.2 Assemble or develop and adopt agreed upon vegetation of habitat classification systems and geospatially recognize areas of rare or unique ecosystems.

2.7.3 Assemble or develop and adopt agreed upon species classification and distribution data and geospatially recognize areas of rare and endemic species and unique habitats.

2.7.4 Identify appropriate natural resource indicators and candidate taxa or surrogate species, and develop explicit population objectives or natural resource appropriate targets.

2.7.5 Identify factors believed to be the most limiting to specific (surrogate species or targets) and identify monitoring efforts to track changes in these factors and response.

2.7.6 Develop species-habitat models to fully operationalize the integration of natural resource indicators and use of surrogate species measures across the Appalachian LCC landscape-level planning, monitoring, and assessment

2.7.7 Further refine selection of indicators, species, and targets as needed.

1. **Anticipated Outcomes**
* A draft list of species (or criteria used to identify/categorize a potential species) to consider as indicator and surrogate species (to assess Landscape-level Management)
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* Criteria to cluster or pool species (habitat, systems, other)
* Identify species may need special management attention due to rarity or endemism, unique threats, limited range, limited population levels, legal action or some other special circumstance.
* Recommend a PROCESS the Steering Committee may wish to consider and support to identify and finalize a set of indicator and surrogate species to begin setting population targets and to develop species habitat models for pursuing landscape level planning.