

Summary of the LCC National Council

U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution

Background

Since the creation of the Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) network, concerns have surfaced over the need for a national body to maintain broad national-level support and coordination. In 2011, the Department of Interior (DOI) requested the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) conduct a neutral third-party assessment of national DOI and LCC representatives to gauge potential support, concerns, and recommendations for convening an LCC National Council. Interview findings indicated that there were national-level needs that could not be met through the existing LCC enterprise but were critical to the long-term viability of the LCC network. Respondents recommended that: (1) the Council should not be driven by a single agency/entity; (2) the Council should help coordinate, define, and focus the LCC enterprise; and (3) this Council should respect the self-governing, self-directed nature of the individual LCCs.

Process

Given the strong support for a Council identified through the assessment, USIECR neutrally convened a “strategy team” broadly representing all the key stakeholders to collaboratively develop a path forward and create a proposal for a national body that would balance the need to preserve and protect the self-directed nature of the LCCs with the need for an integrated, interdependent network. Members of the strategy team were selected from entities involved in the LCC network and included leaders from LCC staff, federal and state agencies, NGOs, and tribal organizations.

Over the course of about 18 months, the strategy team (members listed on reverse) held a series of in-person meetings, webinars and conference calls. They identified key needs for a National Council, including: (1) overarching coordination of LCC efforts; (2) consistency in coordination and communication between LCCs to support a cohesive purpose; (3) articulation of shared outcomes; (4) support for collaboration across geographies; and (5) advocacy for LCCs. The strategy team determined how a national body would best be constituted, and developed a Final Charter for the LCC National Council that identifies proposed structure, membership, purpose, goals, and objectives for the Council.

Guidelines

Members of the strategy team operated by consensus and worked together under a unifying goal: to serve and advance individual LCCs and the LCC network. The strategy team acknowledged that LCCs are self-directed partnerships and that LCC participants come from other agencies with their own inherent authorities. The Charter notes that the LCC National Council will recognize and respect these authorities, and will have no authority over individual LCCs.

Composition

By consensus, the strategy team decided that the LCC National Council would have 27 seats that include: six permanent members from federal agencies and the following members with rotating terms: four state agency directors; four NGO participants; one LCC participant, two “major partnership” participants; four international participants; three U.S. federally-recognized tribal participants; one indigenous participant; and two “at large” participants.

Goals

The purpose of the LCC National Council is to support cooperative large-scale conservation efforts of the LCC network by working with LCCs to: (1) enhance coordination among LCCs; (2) identify ecological and institutional challenges and other landscape-scale stressors to be addressed at the national and international level; and (3) serve as a national voice for the LCC network. The LCC National Council will integrate pre-existing national conservation initiatives and partnerships, and will seek to promote and ensure the recognition of the LCCs as a coordinated and connected network that enhances landscape-scale conservation.

LCC National Council Strategy Team

Federal Agencies

Kit Muller, Bureau of Land Management
Cat Hawkins-Hoffman, National Park Service
Doug Parsons, National Park Service
Roger Griffis, NOAA Fisheries
Dave Cleaves, U.S. Forest Service
Monica Tomosy, U.S. Forest Service
Doug Beard, U.S. Geological Survey
Robin O'Malley, U.S. Geological Survey

Non-Governmental Organizations

Mark Humpert, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Gary Taylor, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*
Sara Vickerman, Defenders of Wildlife
Bruce Stein, National Wildlife Federation
Garrit Voguesser, National Wildlife Federation
Mary Klein, NatureServe
Leslie Honey, NatureServe
Mark Kramer, The Nature Conservancy
Christie McGregor, The Nature Conservancy
Christy Plumer, The Nature Conservancy*
Terra Rentz, The Wildlife Society
Steve Moyer, Trout Unlimited
Zach Cockrum, Trout Unlimited
Jad Daley, Trust for Public Land
Breece Robertson, Trust for Public Land*

LCC Staff

Doug Austen, National LCC Coordinator
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Debra Schlafmann, California LCC
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Karen Murphy, Western Alaska LCC

Tribal and Indigenous

Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council
Kurt Russo, Native American Land Conservancy
Ulalia Woodside, Pacific Islands CCC/ Kamehameha Schools*

States

Doug Vincent-Lang, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Josh Avey, Arizona Game and Fish Department*
Larry Voyles, Arizona Game and Fish Department
John Rogner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources*
Kenny Ribbeck, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Mallory Martin, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Bob Broscheid, Arizona Game and Fish Department

NOTE: Organizational representatives shifted over the course of the Strategy Team's work due to staff changes and scheduling conflicts. Strategy team members marked with an asterisk departed prior to finalization of the Charter.