

Technical Advisory Committee Final Minutes
May 7, 2007
NPPD Office, Kearney, Nebraska

Welcome and Introductions

TAC Chair Elections - Mark Peyton nominated and elected as chair for one year.

Update on Program Executive Director Selection

Dale Strickland provided an update. Jerry Kenny was selected as Executive Director (ED) after the Governance Committee (GC) interview of the top five candidates. Dale reviewed Jerry's qualifications and noted that he had received many favorable comments from people outside of the Program in support of Jerry's selection. WEST will continue to provide support through September 2007 under the current contract. WEST will then be available as needed and agreed upon by Jerry, GC, and WEST. There was discussion regarding potential staff for the ED. It will likely be a blend of hired staff and contractors.

Review of TAC Charter

The group discussed the Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) scope for the Program. The TAC will review products such as RFP's, protocols, contractor reports, etc. and provide recommendations to the ED and GC. Dale noted that during the Cooperative Agreement the Technical Committee was a committee that was charged with creating documents. Now during the Program the TAC will be charged with reviewing the documents and providing comments to the ED and GC. Jim Jenniges noted that ad hoc groups, such as the AMWG, will be more involved in creating products, and these types of ad hoc groups will likely continue.

The ED will be the primary source to identify products for review by the TAC and to convey information/advice back to the GC. This will help ensure proper communication. The TAC may occasionally identify items that need review that have not been previously brought to them.

The group discussed scheduling of meetings. Options are to have regularly scheduled meetings or to call as needed. Scheduled meetings will likely be needed to make sure they are on calendars, but some may not be needed so can be canceled, held via email, conference calls, etc. There was general agreement to have a regular scheduled meeting.

Coordination between other advisory committees will likely be done via the ED as he will be involved in all committees. The ED will help identify instances where input is needed for the other committees.

Whooping Crane Data Analysis Plan – Dale explained that the purpose of the analysis is to analyze the data collected to date as described in the protocol. Before the analysis can be completed, advice from the TAC is needed on several items. Dale reviewed several items identified by Shay Howlin, WEST biometrician conducting the analysis, and received input from the TAC. The TAC input will be incorporated into the analysis. Dale noted that the analysis will be drafted in a format suitable for publishing. Authorship of the publication was discussed and it

was agreed those involved in the analysis and preparation of the manuscript would be listed as authors while the TAC would be recognized in the acknowledgments. The TAC agreed that getting this information published would be beneficial.

Vegetation Mapping Proposal – Clayton Derby updated the TAC on discussions by the GC and initial TAC review. An updated protocol was provided back to the ED Office by Felipe Chavez-Ramirez, lead for the project, which address the TAC’s initial comments. Mark Peyton will distribute the draft proposal for TAC review and recommendation that can be brought to the GC. Mark will forward the TAC recommendations to the ED for presentation to the GC.

Upcoming Projects, Responsibilities, and Schedule

- a. 2007 Tern and Plover Monitoring – NPPD, USFWS, and Central Platte NRD will implement the protocol as in years past.
- b. 2007 Tern Forage Fish Monitoring – Districts will implement the methods portion of the protocol the second week of July with assistance from NGPC and USFWS personnel. Once all groups agree on field methods implementation the ED office will complete the sampling design.
- c. Geomorphology and Vegetation Protocols review – The protocols will be distributed for review.
- d. Tern and Plover Foraging Protocol – The RFP from drafted by Jim Jenniges will be distributed to the TAC for review.

Future Meetings – July 19, 2007 in Colorado