



**Great Plains LCC Steering Committee Meeting Synopsis  
Wichita, Kansas  
January 18-19, 2011**

Steering Committee: Lief Ahlm, John Beall, Bob Bettger, Doug Burger, Ruben Cantu (for Ross Melinchuk), Gary Davis, Warren Day, Jim Douglas, Richard Hatcher, Jim Hays, Matt Hogan, Brandon Houck, Scott Manley, Dave Mehlman, Claudia Regan (for Melanie Woolever), Keith Sexson, Benjamin Tuggle, Jeff Ver Steeg

Observers: Craig Allen, Andy Bishop, Max Ethridge, Ted LaGrange, Leon Redman

GPLCC Staff: James Broska, Mike Carter, Dana Roth, Misti Vazquez

### **GPLCC Status and Progress Update**

Mike Carter reviewed the status and progress of the GPLCC. He reviewed the original purpose of LCCs, the region we encompass, list of programs we can inform, history of meetings/calls, steering committee members, Science RFP process in 2010, and science partnerships.

### **GPLCC Governance**

It was proposed that Tuggle take on the chairmanship of the GPLCC Steering Committee for a year in order to move the LCC forward at a critical point in its development. *Tuggle was elected as the GPLCC Steering Committee chair for the next year, effective immediately.*

### **Update on RFP Projects and Science Priorities**

James Broska gave short updates on each of the projects funded in 2010. There will be poster sessions by the authors at the next SC meeting in June. Broska also presented the Science Subcommittee's recommendations for the prioritization of science RFP funding. The framework identifies a set of priority indicator species: Arkansas River shiner, Black-tailed prairie dog, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Northern Pintail, and Snowy Plover. Each species is tied to habitats with bullet points relating to the species and broader research issues on the landscape. This framework can be used to identify science needs and design RFPs for any species in the future. It is also a way to drive research dollars to landscape-scale questions. There was a consensus that the RFP needs to include strong direction on management implications, what we can do now, not just focus on the research that is years down the road. The sooner we can get this research on the ground, the sooner we can affect the landscape. *The Steering Committee voted to develop the RFP using the recommended framework and species and to make sure the RFP directed applicants' attention to the bullets and applied nature of the research. James Broska, in conjunction with the Science Subcommittee, is to develop the RFP and send it to the Steering Committee for review.*

### **GPLCC Organizational Structure**

Carter reported that the LCC has an operational plan that was drafted by FWS in 2009 and suggested it be updated rather than rewritten if an update is desired. The plan doesn't include

governance topics, which seems to be the area where the GPLCC needs direction. He briefly reviewed examples of other LCC charters as a basis for developing the GPLCC charter. There was a discussion about the various charters, with the Pacific Island LCC charter being preferred. Comments are noted below. *Carter will work with a few Steering Committee members to draft an outline of the GPLCC charter and send it out for review. It will then be discussed on a future conference call meeting.*

### **Partner Roundtable**

Partners were given the opportunity to briefly talk about what they can bring to the GPLCC, what they are working on, and the political climate in their state.

### **State Science Partnerships**

Tuggle reviewed the issue of the partner states' capacity to contribute to the GPLCC and how the GPLCC would help address those needs through the RFP for State Science Partnerships. Each of the state representatives presented and answered questions about their state's proposal. During the discussion, it was noted that there is a strong need for a single data server to host and serve all the data available from the various partners. Warren Day reported that USGS is talking about and actively working on developing this type of architecture but that it was a long way off. A possibility would certainly be to get something up and running sooner than later and then transfer it to the final architecture. *The Steering Committee voted to approve and fund all these state proposals.*

### **USGS Update**

Craig Allen reported on the Climate Effects Network (CEN), which was created to monitor and report on climate change issues, and in particular his involvement in the Great Northern Plains CEN. He also reported on the USGS Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Units, which are based in state universities and use graduate students to work on projects. There is a unit in each state of the LCC. Warren Day reported on the USGS Climate Science Center. It will support the efforts of GPLCC, as well as other LCCs. This year, a director will be hired and a science advisory committee formed. More staff will be hired as funding becomes available. USGS will meet with Mike Carter and James Broska to discuss and plan for long-term needs of the GPLCC.

### **Communications**

Misti Vazquez presented the 2011 Communication Plan, including a logo design, website structure and design, and plans for an electronic newsletter. *The Steering Committee approved the communication plan, key audiences, and website structure and design and committed to providing a list of contacts for communications. It was agreed to use the recommended logo, with a slight typographical change, pending further comments.*