

**Karner Blue HCP  
Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) Meeting  
October 24, 2006  
9:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m.  
Sandhill Wildlife Area - Babcock**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present: Matt Krumenauer, Steve Richter, Gary Birch, Jody Gindt, Joel Aanensen, Bob Hess, Jimmy Christenson, Dave Lentz, Pat Kandziora, Joe Henry (recorder)**

**1. Anti-Trust Statement**

Jimmy opened the meeting at 9:45 by delivering the Anti-Trust policy.

**2. Approve minutes from 8-9-06**

No additions, deletions or corrections were offered. Joel moved to approve the minutes and was seconded by Gary. The minutes were approved by all present.

**3. Review action items from previous meetings (see next page)**

**Done**

**4. Inclusion updates**

- Plum Creek Timber  
Received their Certificate of Inclusion (dated 8/31/2006).
- Oakdale Electric Cooperative  
Received their Certificate of Inclusion (dated 8/10/2006)
- Adams Columbia Electric Cooperative (dated 9/27/2006)  
Received their CI and are using a standard SHCA
- Dairyland Power Cooperative  
Dave prepared a draft SHCA for Dairyland and submitted it to for their consideration on 9/12/2006.
- WE Energies blanket SHCA  
Dave has had limited time to work on their SHCA

**5. IOC Administrative Issues**

- Documentation of IOC operating procedures: recommendation to delay  
Discussion  
Given the work load with the 5-point plan, Matt stated that this issue is being considered as a lower priority. This issue will be addressed but the need to do so immediately is not critical given that we have continuity with current IOC representatives. No one was opposed to a delay.

**6. Briefing on Streamlining Meeting DNR & FWS 8/24-25:**

- Changed Circumstances proposed amendment.  
Cathy Carnes brought up the issue of flooding. She asked if the impacts from flooding events were significant enough to still be a changed circumstance. She suggested asking Crex staff. Pete Engman said that flooding does occur at Crex but it generally does not affect uplands, therefore, Kbb habitat. Due to the sandy soil, flood waters recede quickly. All other changed circumstance events experienced so far were decided to be beneficial disturbances and therefore post-management surveys and changed circumstances reports (following these events) will no longer be required. However, pre-management surveys are required before any disturbance management activity on the property following a wildfire, tornado or other wind damage event

and flooding, since the state of the land was altered. The Service requested an amendment be drafted to delete all changed circumstances activities from the HCP. However, it was agreed by the Service and DNR to leave the changed circumstances mechanism in the HCP for future considerations.

- Reporting Incidental Take

FWS & DNR will continue dialog (see Annual Report issue brief for proposal)

Short-term incidental take is currently being reported (in acres) by partners on Annual Reports. Dave stated that he doesn't see any benefit in reporting short-term incidental take because disturbance is necessary for Kbb survival and habitat maintenance. Take is generally understood to be a negative impact however it is beneficial and even necessary in this case. This conflict creates mixed messages. This issue is not resolved and still is under ongoing discussions with the FWS. Dave feels that permanent take should be the only kind of take reported. This permanently eliminates habitat and is certainly a negative impact with no benefits. A better way of documenting impacts (positive) on the landscape would be to report acres of beneficial disturbance; and conversely, only report take that is permanent (negative). Jimmy commented that for the FWS it is a matter of moving away from something that is second nature to their program (counting animals or impacts to animals) and that continued discussions are important in helping them and us to see a different way of assessing impacts on the landscape. Steve suggested that we collaborate with BER to help address how we can gauge success through management rather than reporting beneficial disturbance as a negative impact. Gary commented that we make a list of sites/properties where (intense) disturbance management events have occurred yet the sites still support Kbb populations. These examples may help to demonstrate that the habitat was not taken, but improved and only some (not all) of the Kbb were taken. We can use these examples to demonstrate to the FWS that reporting take is not necessary because we are not permanently taking the habitat or the Kbb in the population.

Another inconsistency in calling short-term incidental take related to beneficial disturbance as take is that the same site may get treated multiple times based on the rotation. How many times should take be reported for the same acre?

C/E - mowing & burning do not take away habitat, they maintain and create it.

Action Item: Dave asked for each IOC representative to give an example of an area where intense management occurred that still support Kbb's.

Action ITEM: What is the definition of take that we will be using to define PT not short-term take?

Bob suggested that we use the same definition that we have used in the guidelines and protocols. "Complete removal of Kbb habitat involving a change in land use that precludes KBB occupation for more than five years".

- What do we do about "demonstrating SM"?
- HCP Measurable Goal(s). What realistic and meaningful alternatives are there to NNLOH? Dave asked what are some meaningful/measurable goals that we should be? Matt suggested that we look at the amount of beneficial disturbance as compared to the acres of Permanent Take (PT). Jimmy stated that the aspects of performance measures that we are currently using are a reasonable way of defining NNLOH and that we should approach the FWS with this approach.

- Proposed amendment to HCP/ITP to allow DNR to do audits on DNR lands (rather than FWS as it currently states).

Dave felt that the ITP & HCP are currently not completely accurate. DNR (Dave) audits partners including DNR properties. This is the Service's role in the documentation. The Service oversees the process and attends some audits to confirm the process. To make the documentation correct, Dave suggested amending them. In response to the published IOC agenda, Scott Swengel commented that he "*think(s) it is a bad precedent to have the DNR audit state-owned properties because it could look to outsiders like a conflict of interest.*" We agreed that the perception is logical. Jimmy commented that Scott's concern should be asked of the Service, not the DNR.

Action Item: Dave will put the question to the Service if an amendment to clarify that DNR can audit DNR properties should be proposed or not.

## 7. Guideline Repackaging and Improvement Team (GRIT)

*Due to lack of time, this item was shortened.*

### Progress, comment and approval status

### Discussion of why reorganized and how it is organized (web, manuals, truck-cards)

Action item: Joe to send out draft "users manual" template and any protocols revised since the last IOC review.

- Review current draft management guidelines and protocols

Discussion, comment and direction

- Mitigation/restoration/egg salvage (*carry over*)
- Mowing & Brushing (*carry over*)
- Timber Harvest (draft) protocol updates

Dave briefly explained that at the recent Jackson County Forest audit a discussion about experiences with harvesting over snow-covered, frozen ground was not without problems. Even though this is a known compromise, most partners choose to avoid impact to the best refugia on the harvest site no matter when or under what ground conditions they harvest.

Action Item: Bob is currently redrafting a revision to the protocol to delete "over snow-covered, frozen ground", and which will emphasize avoidance should be attempted to the greatest extent practicable no matter what the ground condition.

- Prescribed Burn (*Still being worked on with the Service*)

## 8. Update High Probability Range Map. (KBB Probability Model)

How should model be applied to HCP implementation?

IOC developed a draft table identifying roles and activities and reporting responsibilities for partners in the various geographic and Kbb probability areas across the Kbb High Potential Range. The table is draft and needs additional work.

Action Item: Dave to flesh out table to include NNLOH indicator criteria in addition to activities and reporting responsibilities. Distribute next draft to IOC members for comments.

## 9. HCP Winter Meeting 2007 – Schedule and Plan

### Examples and tasks:

- There was not enough time to develop an agenda
- IOC discussed the possibility of a Recovery presentation by Bob or Rebecca Schroeder. Since the recovery is an important part of the HCP's Five-Point Plan for Improvement, it was thought the

HCP team should be more aware of recovery activities and recovery needs and opportunities for HCP partners to help.

- February 21, 2007 was picked as the HCP Team Winter Meeting.

Action Item: Joe to send out placeholder memo to the widest HCP distribution list and reserve a location for the event.

#### 10. KBB Fund Financial Report

- Treasurer's Report  
Dave reviewed the quarterly report from the NRF and the current balance is \$4766.80, following printing of the statement inclusion payments from Oakdale Electric and Adams Columbia Electric Cooperative were received totaling \$5100 bringing the total balance to \$9866.80.
- Update on Natural Resource Foundation KBB Fund  
Dave confirmed that the NRF service charges are taken on a quarterly basis on deposits. Dave commented that the DNR has again forwarded a budget request for changes to statutory language which will allow DNR manage this fund directly. This way there will be no charges against the fund

#### 11. Closing

##### Scheduled meeting dates:

- January 24, 2007 IOC Meeting - Point or Wausau same location for meetings below
- February 20, 2007 IOC Meeting
- February 21, 2007 HCP Team Winter Meeting

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### ACTION ITEMS FOR REVIEW (for agenda item #3)

#### Karner Blue HCP Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) Meeting August 9, 2006

##### Action Items:

Joe: Send word documents to IOC for review. done

Joe: Reserve space for next meeting location. done

Matt & Joe: work on IOC approval procedures; Dave to draft funding oversight and management procedures.

Carry over to agenda item number 5.

IOC Group: Review specific Guidelines/Protocols and send to Joe. done

Dave: resend Kbb model presentation link to IOC, especially Bob and Ursula. done

*[Following action items will be carried over to other items in today's agenda.]*

➤ *For Agenda Item #5*

## **Role of IOC in approving amendments and other IOC administrative and oversight processes**

A table of IOC activities taken from the IOC section of the HCP was reviewed. It was agreed that some activities should continue to occur spontaneously; procedures would be developed for some as they applied; and procedures would be drafted up front for IOC approval process and overseeing and planning funding.

**Action Item:** Matt & Joe to work on IOC approval procedures; Dave to draft funding oversight and management procedures.

### ➤ **For Agenda Item #7**

**Re: specific changes in the 5-point plan: Dave to draft a plan and send it to the IOC for input prior to March 28<sup>th</sup>.**

Not done. Dave drafted several issue papers on proposed changes, which were shared with the FWS at the HCP 6-month Review meeting. IOC had inputted to the drafting of the briefs, so they should reflect the perspective of the partners.

**New Action Item: Dave will distribute same briefs to IOC. As remaining “change items” briefs are discussed by the IOC, Dave will draft and distribute additional issue briefs and proposed amendments to effect the changes.** Standing action item. Until completed.

### ➤ **For Agenda Item #8**

#### **KBB Fund Financial Report**

**Action Item:** Dave will check with NRF to determine what percent of our money is taken out of the account and how often it is deducted? Once over \$10,000, ensure NRF switches to higher interest MM account.