The Wisconsin Statewide Karner Blue Butterfly
HCP Team 2010 Winter Meeting

April 7th, 2010
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

MINUTES

Gary Birch, the Chair of the Partners Implementation Oversight Committee opened the meeting at 9:00. Quinn Williams, DNR attorney, delivered the anti-trust statement.

Following round-robin introductions, Dave Lentz, the HCP Coordinator announced and welcomed the Wood County Highway Department as the most recent new Partner.

Dave opened the agenda by characterizing this annual meeting as "turning the page". I time to reflect on the past success of the program and look to the future. The HCP recently passed the 10-year milestone in implementing the Plan. On behalf of the HCP Partners, the DNR has submitted an application to the Fish and Wildlife Service to renew the incidental take permit for another 10 years. The permit officially expired December 31, 2009. Gary introduced Lisa Mandell of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3 who gave an update on the status of the DNR's application and continued permit coverage.

- Renewal status update –

  Presently the Service is in the processing stage with the home office in Washington D.C. For permit coverage to continue while the application is being processed, the Service needed to receive the application packet by the end of November 2009; which happened. While in process, Partners are covered under the original permit. Presently we prepared a notice for the federal registry and it was published the beginning of March 2010 to renew the permit. Public disclosure takes place with a 60 day comment period. The end of the comment period is the beginning of May 2010. As of now we have received only one phone call in regards to the renewal application. We do not anticipate anyone objecting to the permit renewal and hope by mid May 2010 to be ready to sign it for another 10 years. Noting - Once the permit is signed, it is authorized.

- Recognition Presentation

  Louise Clemency of the Service's Wisconsin Field Office in New Franken recognized everyone that has been involved from the beginning of the Karner Blue HCP and who continues to be involved. The history of the Wisconsin Karner Blue HCP is very unique and continues to be a success story. The HCP Partners in Wisconsin are known nationally as a model partnership. Louise presented everyone with certificates of appreciation and thanked everyone for their continuing support of the Karner blue

butterfly. Louise commented that this is very uncommon for the Fish and Wildlife Service to share certificates like this -- this is a very heartfelt recognition.

- Overview of the HCP Development and Implementation (1994 to 2010):

Dave Lentz reflected on many of the events and accomplishments of the HCP Partners with a slide show of photos taken throughout the history of the HCP. If the first phase of the HCP was the HCP development era (1994-1999), then Phase 2 was the era of implementation with adaptive management (1999-2009). It took 5 years to write the plan and another 10 years implementing it to streamline the processes and focus on important conservation. Some highlights of the last 10 years:

- Development of a Kbb probability model led to a better understanding of the Kbb High Potential Range and an increased focus on what is most important.
- The number of known Kbb sites has dramatically increased due to Partner effort over many years.
- Most regulatory processes were streamlined as data were gathered and their meaning was understood.
- A HCP User's Guide consolidated conservation measures in a series of management and monitoring guidelines and protocols.
- Development of a KBB Emergence Model takes much of the guess work out of "when to survey" and significantly reduced the labor previously needed for field reconnaissance.
- The number of Partners has increased from 26 to 40.
- Over 900 people have been trained and certified to perform HCP monitoring protocols.

With so many goals achieved in four of the five points of the HCP 5-Point Plan, it seems time to set the plan down and redefine our goals. In fact we have already begun Phase 3 of the HCP. While we don't know what phase 3 will be like, it should be a time of stability and performance. Since the only point of the 5-Point Plan where the goals have not been fully addressed or met is Point 4 – Recovery, phase 3 should have as a component something related to Kbb recovery.

Cathy Carnes: I want to thank the partnership and I want to reiterate that Recovery is important in order to reclassify the Karner blue's *endangered* listing.

Dave's PowerPoint presentation can be viewed here.

- The Wisconsin KBB Recovery Program – 2009 Recovery Activity Report

Bob Hess, the DNR's Karner Blue Recovery Coordinator gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Recovery efforts and Kbb status following 2009. His presentation is here. Bob works with the state and private properties (not federal) on recovery of the KBB.

The 2008 Kbb populations on most state and private recovery properties were very low. So in 2009 the Recovery monitoring strategy was modified. We wanted to focus on what is important so in 2009 we reduced the amount of Distance Sampling (population size estimates) to the HCP's level 3 monitoring; changing the transects to specific sights, additionally the data changes addressed new properties, encroaching invasive species presence and native vegetation. The data changes on Karner numbers were 20,000 in 2008 and 17,000 in 2009. Essentially the population is the same when you factor in that less surveys occurred in 2009.

Question: The numbers for 2008 and 2009, why are they so low?
Bob: It may be normal fluctuation, weather, or timing and techniques; or natural plant succession. We found that Karners are abundant on larger sights and around areas where nectar plants are at least common. The question is do we need more management prescriptions to improve and expand habitat and Kbb carrying capacity?

Currently we want to concentrate on larger sights that have more lupine and preferred nectar populations. In 2010 the survey will be less on population estimates knowing we cannot achieve population recovery we want to continue the less abundant samplings and rather establish an encounter rate. With this method we'll be able to compare the Distance Sampling count allowing us to return back to the more intensive survey in the future. Or, we could implement a management activity as we have a system set up for recovery. Regardless we just want to just keep track of what is happening with the species.

For 2010 we are contracting out the distance samplings with UW Stevens Point as well as a high school teacher and his students. We are also working on volunteers to complete lesser sites. We are moving in this direction rather then tie up property staffs who have limited hours to spend on KBB surveys. We have identified potential new sites; a private landowner with 80 acres, and Kohler Peet-Barrens.

In 2010 there are numerous grant opportunities to restore and manage upland habitat. Most need to be matched. Since seeds are an expensive part of restoration, we are trying to develop a network of volunteers, e.g. friends groups, or local CWMA's to help with seed collection to support recovery site restoration and enhancement. This is an area where HCP Partners could really help the recovery effort.

Research continues with the UW-Madison and Michigan Tech.

- <u>Open Discussion and Q&A:</u>
  The purpose of this agenda item is to discuss Partner needs and program needs for the future; to clarify goals for the HCP, such as the role of HCP Partners in supporting Kbb recovery.
  So now what:
  - What do the Partners need from the DNR and the IOC to continue implementing the HCP over the next 10 years?

- What are the purpose and objectives of winter and summer whole HCP team meetings and field trips in the future?

Numerous discussion items and suggestions were brought up. Much of the discussion centered on a network of volunteers and other means for lupine and nectar seed collection to support recovery site restorations.

Partner needs:

- a mentorship program for new partners
- Web based training for new partners and new staff

Outreach, Education, Seed Collection/Recovery/Research:

- get children involved in seed collection -- start with one teacher/youth involvement; go through the school system
- establish nursery beds to raise lupine and nectar plant seeds
- incorporate seed collection in the LEAF program in Forestry
- look for possible opportunities to raise awareness about Karners and lupine – be on the lookout for all possible opportunities
- have a volunteer sign up feature on the HCP website
- explore CWMA's
- habitat maintenance is crucial to continued management; there are other things that we are dealing with to keep in mind, such as invasive plant management and associated species
- consider if it would it be useful to have a newsletter about research
- have a link on the HCP website about recovery information

HCP Team Meetings – winter meetings & summer field trips:

What would you like for a winter meeting; annual, every other year, or no meeting at all? Meetings are needed to keep the momentum going. In the future instead of the afternoon breakouts, use this for mentoring sessions for general orientation and learning, and tutorials to deal with more specific information like "how to fill out an annual report". In the future winter meetings would be better if earlier, like in January or February. For now, no summer field trips; one meeting a year is enough.

- **Breakout Sessions**

Group A – Construction Guideline and Protocols

The purpose of this session is to review and comment on the draft/provisional guideline and associated protocols. Comments and discussion included:

- The larger the pipeline the larger the disturbance
- Any pipeline installation that results in small amount of area disturbance
- Is there anything we missed on the list?
- Minor activities are typically short term routine type activities, infrastructure maintenance, grooming roadsides, etc. that will likely impact much less than 1/3 of the occupied habitat.

- Always consider alternatives; understand why you chose the alternative you did. Include this information in your file for minor projects and your project report for major projects. Be sure to document what you're doing.
- Are provisions for emergency repair? No, emergencies are covered in the Emergency Guideline. Generally says to take care of the emergency first and mitigate later.
- Add Fish and Wildlife Service and DNR to review of major projects.

Group B: Shifting Mosaic

Shifting mosaic (forestry) partners continued to work on measurable objectives for No Net Loss of Habitat.

Gary Birch adjourned the meeting at 2:30