

NORTHEAST TEXAS  
Conservation Delivery Network  
January 15, 2014  
Nature Center, Tyler Texas

The Northeast Texas Conservation Delivery Network (NETX CDN) held its second meeting on 15 January 2014 at the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's Nature Center in Tyler. Forty-three conservation delivery professionals participated compared to thirty who attended the first meeting in May 2013. Agencies and organizations represented were the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Caddo Lake Institute, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Red River Eastern Turkey Cooperative, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and staff of the LMVJV. Also in attendance were Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel who were observing the meeting in anticipation of initiating a CDN in the WGCP of Louisiana.



The agenda focused on reports and discussion from two working groups (WG) formed at the first CDN meeting.

The Operating Guidelines WG, composed of Ryan Walser (NRCS, Chair), Jeff Reid (USFWS/PFW) and David Sierra (TPWD) presented a description and explanation of their proposed NETX CDN Operating Guidelines. The primary discussions were in regard to three items:

1. Ensuring that the Operating Guidelines purpose and goals statement complied with and complimented the final Strategic Plan purpose and goals statements;
2. Clarification of the Steering Committee composition; and
3. Clarification of the one agency/organization representation on the Steering Committee.

The CDN Chair, Laura Speight, asked the Operating Guidelines WG to complete their work by the end of January based on the discussions and to submit the document to her for approval of the Steering Committee and final review by the participating CDN members. The WG was recognized for their efforts and contribution to completing this document.

The Delivery Planning WG, composed of Jeff Reid (USFWS/PFW, Chair), Zaina Gates (TFS), Charlie Muller (TPWD), Scotty Parsons (NWTF), Jason Hardin (TPWD) and Rick Williams (NRCS) presented a Strategic Plan for the CDN which proposed goals, objectives, strategies and tactics for meeting the wildlife and landscape restoration and management needs identified by numerous conservation organizations working within the NETX CDN geography. Jeff Reid acknowledged the advice and assistance of various other CDN members in the development of the plan. The primary discussions were in regard to:

1. The level of detail required to be of functional value to the CDN;
2. The level at which areas of focus would be identified to address issues presented in the plan;
3. What datasets would be relevant to develop an effective delivery prioritization tool; and
4. How CDN accomplishments might be recorded and reported.

The CDN membership was asked to further review the proposed Strategic Plan in consideration of the discussions and to submit any further comments or recommendations to the WG and CDN Chair by mid-February. The Delivery Planning WG was asked to complete their work based on the CDN meeting discussions and any additional input received and to submit a final document for Steering Committee approval by the end of May. After Steering Committee approval the Strategic Plan will be distributed to the membership for final review.

It was agreed that following the completion of the Strategic Plan the Chair will assemble a Prioritization Tool WG, chaired by Rick Williams (NRCS) to begin the work of developing a model to support the Strategic Plan and guide the CDN in identifying conservation delivery priorities and focus areas within the NETX CDN geography. Currently identified WG members are Zaina Gates (TFS), Jason Hardin (TPWD), Rusty Wood (TPWD). Members who have expertise in this area and are interested in the development of the prioritization tool were asked to contact Chair Laura Speight.

Two afternoon presentations were well received by the membership and provided valuable insights to help the CDN be successful in its mission. Martin Blaney, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, gave a presentation entitled " Changing Landscapes by Coalition" in which he shared a landscape level project made successful by collaboration. Martin described an oak, pine-oak woodland restoration objective in Missouri and Arkansas involving multiple partners. He also described how such a partnership can through its accomplishments secure grants for additional work.

Jason Estrella, TPWD, gave a presentation on the concept of using GIS technology to assist the CDN in indentifying high value conservation areas in the CDN geography. He emphasized the importance of identifying datasets that supported the Strategic Plan objectives and using these datasets in conjunction with the experience and knowledge of on-the-ground delivery specialist to locate high priority focus areas. Chair Laura Speight offered the appreciation of the CDN to Martin and Jason for attending the meeting and making their presentations. It was also recognized that Jason will be providing his expertise to the Delivery Prioritization Tool WG in the accomplishment of their work.

Following the CDN meeting the current Steering Committee met and agreed to reconstruct the Steering Committee composition to comply with the proposed Operating Guidelines and asked Chair Laura Speight to begin that process.

Chair, Laura Speight, announced that with the advice of the Steering Committee she will call the next CDN meeting when sufficient progress has been made by the Prioritization Tool WG to make a report to the CDN. Meeting adjourned.

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Agenda:

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<b>9:00-9:10</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<b>Laura Speight</b>
<b>9:10-9:40</b>	<b>Partner Introductions</b> Opportunity for CDN members to briefly share their organization, title and role	
<b>9:40 -10:00</b>	<b>Operating Guidelines Working Group Presentation</b> Overview of CDN Operating Guidelines Q&A/Discussion Full CDN will vote on Operating Guidelines	<b>Ryan Walser</b>
<b>10:00-10:15</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>10:15-12:00</b>	<b>Delivery Plan Working Group Presentation</b> Prioritizing & coordinating conservation actions Q&A/Discussion	<b>Jeff Reid</b>
<b>12:00-1:15</b>	<b>Lunch</b> Pizza and drinks will be delivered for nominal charge at Nature Center	
<b>1:15-1:45</b>	<b>Arkansas CDN success</b>	<b>Martin Blaney</b>
<b>1:45-2:45</b>	<b>Conservation Delivery Prioritization Tool</b> Overview of prioritization tool Q&A/Discussion	<b>Jason Estrella</b>
<b>2:45-3:15</b>	<b>Review &amp; Finalize Action Items</b> Working Group Action Items Next Meeting	<b>Laura Speight</b>

The Steering Committee will meet briefly following the general meeting.