

Northeast Texas Conservation Delivery Network Steering Committee Meeting

Alazan Bayou WMA
July 23, 2015

Meeting Summary

The NETX CDN Steering Committee met on July 23, 2015 at the Alazan Bayou WMA . Steering Committee members present were CDN Chair Laura Speight, Steve Arey (USFWS/PFW), Spencer Dumont (TPWD), Wendy Ledbetter (TNC), Corey Mason (TPWD), Gene Miller (Interim for NWTf), Wes Moorehead (TFS), Jim Neal (CLI) and Jim Rogers for Kanand Brooks (NRCS). Also attending were Jason Estrella (TPWD), Jeff Raasch (TPWD), Mary Webb-Marek (NRCS) and Doyle Shook (LMVJV).

The meeting agenda is included with this summary. Actions taken by the Steering Committee were as follows:

Delivery Prioritization Tool Revision

Jason Estrella (TPWD), Chair of the CDN Delivery Prioritization Tool Working Group presented a recommendation to the Steering Committee that the Shortleaf Pine Suitability model be removed from the Delivery Prioritization Tool and that the three remaining models receive equal weighting. Jason's recommendation was based on a recent determination that soils data utilized in the Shortleaf Pine Suitability model was not accurate. The three remaining Delivery Prioritization Tool inputs are the TPWD Wild Turkey model, the LMVJV WGCPO Open Pine Landbird model and the EMS riparian vegetation. After reviewing the focal areas identified by the revised Tool the Committee approved the proposed changes. A CDN Focal Area map associated with the revised Tool is included with this summary.

The Steering Committee requested that the Delivery Prioritization Tool revision be presented at the next full CDN meeting.

Conservation Priorities & Collaborative Projects

Using the revised CDN Delivery Prioritization Tool the Steering Committee members identified ongoing organizational projects and conservation priorities associated with the focal areas identified by the Tool. Based on project discussions, proximity of organizational projects and similar conservation priorities the Steering Committee selected four areas that they believed represented areas of consensus conservation priority and which had the best opportunities for collaborative partnerships among the CDN member organizations. Within the CDN Focal Areas the four priority areas identified by the Steering Committee are:

Upper Neches River Basin (Houston, Anderson & Cherokee counties)

Caddo Lake-Big Cypress Bayou-Lake of the Pines corridor
(Marion, Harrison, Morris, Titus, Camp and Upshur counties)

Red River corridor (Lamar, Red River & Bowie counties)

Sabine River corridor
(Rains, Wood, Upshur, Van Zandt, & Smith counties)

The Steering Committee also agreed that the CDN should consider collaborative opportunities associated with open pine/shortleaf pine ecosystems in the CDN focal areas particularly in consideration of ongoing projects at Fairchild State Forest, Neches River NWR, Bobcat Ridge and Caddo Lake WMA & NWR.

The Steering Committee agreed that similar priority area discussion should also be held at the next full CDN meeting with the goal being to invite additional comments regarding potential CDN priorities within the focal areas identified by the Prioritization Tool and to obtain confirmation from the full CDN regarding the selection of these four priority areas and the open pine emphasis. The Steering Committee approved an overview and discussion for each of the five CDN priorities as agenda items for the next full CDN meeting with the expected outcome being to form CDN Working Groups associated with each priority area to evaluate conservation opportunities and collaborative projects within these areas. The Steering Committee asked Chair Laura Speight and Doyle Shook to coordinate agenda presentations and presenters for each priority area.

What's Next for the NETX CDN

Corey Mason led a discussion regarding what is most important for CDN partners to remain engaged in the CDN. Although there are a number of intangible benefits for the conservation delivery professional by participating in the CDN, all Steering Committee members agreed that the most important expectation is to see tangible conservation projects be enabled or enhanced as a result of the partnership.

The Steering Committee requested that the current CDN invitation list be distributed to Steering Committee members so that it could be updated by each partner organization.

Next NETX CDN Meeting

The Steering Committee selected late September-early October 2015 as the preferred timeframe for the next full CDN meeting. The Committee asked Chair Laura Speight to conduct a poll of Steering Committee members to determine the best date within this timeframe. The meeting will be held at the TPWD Nature Center in Tyler, TX. The Committee recommended five possible topics for presentations to the CDN:

1. Revision to the CDN Delivery Prioritization Tool;
2. Overview of five Steering Committee recommended CDN priority areas;
3. Formation of a CDN Working Group for each priority area selected;
4. Showcase an ongoing CDN partner project/s located within a CDN focal areas; and
5. Any other CDN relevant topic that may be appropriate.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

AGENDA

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Meeting Objectives: 1) Prioritization model update & review; 2) Identify conservation priorities and potential collaborative projects in the NETX CDN using the model; 3) Set date/location/agenda for next general membership meeting.

9:30 – 9:45	Welcome	Laura Speight
9:45 – 10:15	Prioritization Tool Review/Revision	Jason Estrella
10:15 – 10:30	Break	
10:30 – 12:00	Conservation Priorities & Collaborative Projects	Doyle Shook
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:00	What’s Next for the NETX CDN	Corey Mason
2:00 – 2:15	Next General Membership Meeting	Doyle Shook
2:15 – 2:45	Other CDN Considerations	Members

Northeast Texas CDN Focal Areas

