

Northeast Texas Conservation Delivery Network Steering Committee Meeting

Alazan Bayou WMA

May 17, 2016

Meeting Summary

The NETX CDN Steering Committee met on May 17, 2016 at the Alazan Bayou WMA. Steering Committee members present were CDN Chair Laura Speight, CDN Vice Chair Jared Laing, Steve Arey (USFWS/PFW), Wendy Ledbetter (TNC), Corey Mason (TPWD), Wes Moorehead (TFS), Jim Neal (CLI) and Jim Rogers (NRCS).

Also attending were Aimee Hurt (WD4C), Luke Lewis (NWTF), Keith McKnight (LMVJV), Jeff Reid (USFWS/PFW), Chris Salisbury (WD4C), Doyle Shook (LMVJV), Robert Speight (NETMWD) and Rusty Wood (TPWD).



The meeting agenda is included with this summary.

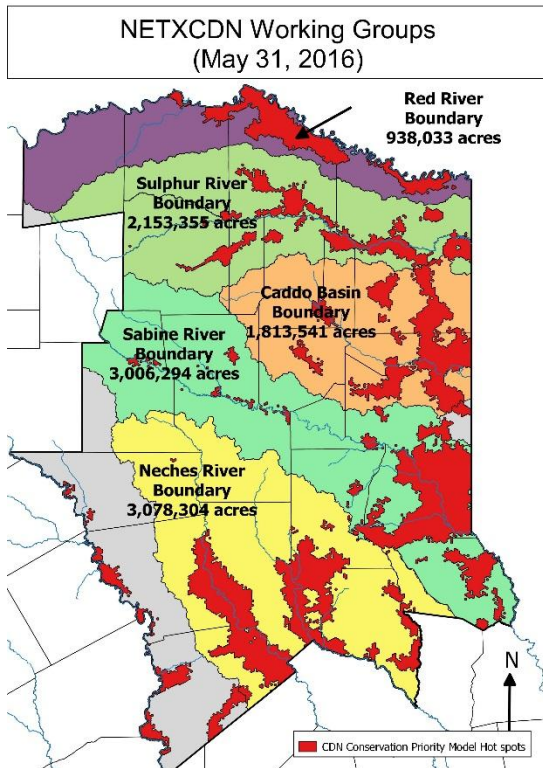
CDN Priority Area Working Group Reports

Jared Laing (TPWD), who has been coordinating and facilitating Working Group meetings, gave an overview of the activities of the seven Working Groups since the last full CDN meeting in September 2015. The seven Working Groups are:

- Working Dogs for Conservation
- Neches River Priority Area

- Sabine River Priority Area
- Cypress Basin Priority Area
- Sulphur River Priority Area
- Red River Priority Area
- Open Pine/Shortleaf Ecosystem Working Group

Jared gave updates for the Sabine and Sulphur River Working Groups who were not able to be present to make their presentations and also reported that the Red River Priority Area WG would be meeting the next day, May 18. Jared gave an overview of the meeting format used by the Working Groups which focused on establishing a Priority Area boundary, identifying conservation targets and threats to those targets, and identifying ongoing, planned or new projects that the WG felt could be accomplished or enhanced by the collaboration of CDN partners.



Jared Laing provided a map of the Priority Area boundaries proposed by the Working Groups. In all cases the Working Groups have proposed a significant expansion of acres outside the priority areas identified by the CDNs Delivery Prioritization Tool. The primary justification for this is that the Working Groups felt this gave them more opportunity for expanding the Priority Area partnerships and a broader area to identify conservation

priorities and potential collaborative projects. After discussion the Steering Committee agreed to support the recommended boundaries but recommended that the Working Groups be encouraged to maintain a focus on those areas identified by the Delivery Prioritization Tool as highest priority.

Rusty Wood (TPWD), Chair of the Neches River Priority Area Working Group, gave an update on their activities. The Working Group has agreed on a boundary and has been successful in initiating three projects in the Priority Area. A Shortleaf Pine restoration project has been approved on Campbell Group property. A Chinese Tallow control project has also been approved. The Neches River rose mallow project is funded and has begun.

The Open Pine/Shortleaf Pine Working Group has scheduled a Shortleaf Pine Workshop for June 7 and 8 in Rusk, TX. For more information on this workshop contact Rusty.wood@tpwd.texas.gov

Robert Speight (NETMWD) reported on the activities of the Cypress Basin Priority Area Working Group. At their first meeting Robert agreed to chair the Working Group. The Working Group agreed on a Priority Area boundary and identified conservation targets and threats that are important for the Cypress Basin Priority Area. The Working Group discussed ongoing partner projects in the Priority Area and plan to discuss these projects and possible new projects in more detail at their next meeting.

Aimee Hurt of Working Dogs for Conservation (WD4C) gave an update on the Outreach and Education Working Group project "Sit, Stay, Stop Invasives and an overview of the WD4C organization. After lunch Aimee and Chris Salisbury (WD4C) conducted a demonstration of the dogs detecting zebra mussels to simulate boat surveillance for zebra mussels and how the dogs can detect Ash firewood in a pile of other wood thus starting the conversation with campers on the threats related to the Emerald Ash Borer.

CDN Officer Elections

Corey Mason (TPWD) reminded the Committee that the CDN operates within guidance established by the CDNs General Operating Guidelines and the Guidelines require Officer (Chair/Vice Chair) elections every two years. The current Officers have served almost four years. The Committee agreed the CDN should follow the Guidelines and initiate the process of submitting nominations and electing CDN Officers. Corey urged the Committee members to seriously consider the value of different CDN partner organizations participating in CDN Officer Positions and asked that Steering Committee members give consideration to personnel in their organizations who are in a position to serve the CDN as an Officer. Corey also noted the value an employee would get from serving in such a position. The Committee agreed to submit any nominations for Chair and Vice Chair to current Chair Laura Speight (TPWD) by May 31.

Other Business

Luke Lewis (NWTF) was introduced to the Committee and made a presentation on a new funding program being initiated by NWTF in association with the Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt Initiative. Luke, in his new position as Director of Development, is now responsible for making the connection between funding opportunities and habitat projects within specific focal areas named America's Big Six of Wildlife Conservation. One of the six areas is America's Southern Piney Woods. Luke expressed his appreciation for the work the CDN partnership is doing and his hope NWTF can complement and provide additional financial assistance toward the conservation goals identified in the CDN Priority Areas.

Next NETX CDN Meeting

The Steering Committee selected late summer-early fall 2016 as the preferred timeframe for the next full CDN meeting. The primary topic will be reports to the full CDN membership from the Priority Area Working Groups. The Committee asked Chair Laura Speight to conduct a poll of Steering Committee members to determine the best date within this timeframe.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

AGENDA

NETX CDN Steering Committee

Alazan Bayou WMA

May 17, 2016 9:30 am

9:30 – 9:45	Welcome	Corey Mason
9:45 – 11:30	Delivery Priority Tool Working Group reports	Jared Laing
	Neches River working group	Rusty Wood
	Cypress Basin working group	Robert Speight
	Sulphur River working group	Penny Wilkerson
	Working Dogs for Conservation working group	Aimee Hurt
11:30– 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 1:30	Elections	Laura Speight
	-Review operation guidelines	
1:30 – 2:00	NWTF Director of Development	Luke D. Lewis
2:00 – 2:15	Next General Membership Meeting	Laura Speight
	-Next meeting Location/Date/Agenda	
2:15 – 2:45	Wrap up	Jared Laing & Laura Speight

Northeast Texas CDN Focal Areas

