

CLAWG Meeting Minutes
(19 Aug 09)

Fourteen persons attended the meeting in Barstow; twelve signed the attendance sheet. Two persons, Annie Kearns (Mojave National Preserve), Nancy Karl (Mojave Desert Land Trust) attended the meeting via telecom. Mr. Robert Wood presided over the meeting and Mr. Sam Cox chaired the meeting; he opened the meeting at 10:05.

A new agenda and sign-in sheet were distributed and introductions were given.

White Paper Update: Karin Messaros (NPS) said she had the white paper and was currently putting it together. She indicated she has everything she currently needs to finish the paper. She recommended adding a section to the document titled "Lessons Learned". The purpose of this section would be to establish information for future DMG and CLAWG members to help with similar situations they may encounter on their programs. This section would cover lessons learned by all agencies adding information to the document covering topics such as policies, procedures, etc. Those in attendance agreed with adding this section and Karin requested that each member send any "lessons learned" they have to her for incorporation.

Update on FY09 Land Acquisition Efforts: Those in attendance commented that there were no significant changes to any on-going land acquisition projects. Nancy Karl indicated they just refined two current grant proposals; one with the National Parks and one with the Wilderness Land Trust, so these proposals could go forward. There is a campaign for 1000 acres near Joshua Tree National Monument (Quail Mountain project) for tortoise habitat. They have filed for grants and matching funds. The Land stewardship program is also going forward. There was discussion about selling land to Cal Trans for tortoise mitigation. Annie Kerns indicated their process is on track to acquire 15 parcels. Though the project is progressing slowly, things are looking up in the area of land acquisition. Communications are on-going with Senator Feinstein's office. Full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund were discussed. Karin Messaros discussed progress with land acquisition with Senator Feinstein's office and the BLM. Theresa Mike of the Native American Land Conservancy (NALC) indicated two separate parcels were being looked at for acquisition based on cultural resources. Sam Cox stated Edwards AFB continues to work with China Lake and TNC on the acquisition of some parcels in the Black Mountain Supersonic Corridor through the REPI program. They are currently waiting on appraisals for parcels in the area. They are also working on an Air Force REPI program that focuses on land around the Hawes Airfield area. They would like this program to become the lead-in to a Mojave Desert regional program and are striving to make the effort as purple as possible.

Bob Wood spoke briefly about the recent 2009 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference held in Phoenix, AZ. He indicated that DOD leadership is taking credit and responsibility for the success of sustainment programs. They are putting pressure on each of the services to get things done and requesting help in writing instructions to alleviate the log jam that has occurred with the program so it can be better streamlined. Mr. Wood indicated that the CLAWG needs to help the DMG focus on the 5-year plan. Emphasis was put on connectivity especially in making regional decisions and on the need to obtain more data and share it with regional players. Mr.

Wood also noted that TNC was partnering with the Defenders of Wildlife. Finally, he stressed that we need to find out who we should work with at the county level and that we need to work with the off-road vehicle people. Theresa Mike expressed her desire to be a POC for Indian tribes with sacred sites if anyone has questions/concerns over land acquisition. It was also discussed that the counties could/should step up and be the leaders in regard to land development especially concerning land connected to farming, energy, water conservation, and future development.

The CLAWG Map: Doug Zeliff gave a presentation on the CLAWG map, providing a demonstration and indicating that it is currently available for use. He displayed data that could be shared with other CLAWG members and displayed the tools and functions. He indicated it was accessible but not necessarily user friendly. He requested that the date be added to any data entered. It was pointed out that the map currently does not show any flight corridors or flight training routes. Doug then showed an interactive demo of CLAWG Map 2. It is a FLEX API by ESRI. He indicated it was a faster mapping service. However, after the CLAWG meeting, Doug discovered there are some security issues with the program that will delay its availability.

Energy Development: BLM application status is unchanged. Current proposals were discussed as well as the issue of whether or not an agency should comment on proposals. When commenting on a proposal, individuals should consider how that comment will affect their agency in the long run. Additionally, it was mentioned that you can't say no to every proposal. We need to know ahead of time what our highest priority areas are and fight for those. It was also noted that the applications BLM is handling are not all there is out there. The cities and counties also receive energy development proposals.

Roundtable:

The Morongo Basin Open Space Workshop will focus on conservation goals and will be held in October.

It was discussed that developers are looking to develop geothermal projects from San Diego to Anzo-Borrogo Springs.

The NALC will be hosting the Native American Land Conservation Conference 30 -31 Oct at the University of California, Riverside Palm Desert campus. They are looking for a well known person to make the opening remarks on desert conservation.

Edwards is looking closer at cultural sites and the potential to partner with related organizations to conserve land.

The NPS will be hosting a two-day event in Las Vegas starting on 11 Jan 2010. It is a multi-agency conference on how to deal with climate change, particularly in the Mojave Desert.

The 15th Anniversary celebration of the Mojave Desert Preserve was highlighted.

Bob Wood indicated to the CLAWG that we need to be long-range visionary planners. That there isn't enough land to go around and that we need to work with all the resources we have. We need to consider biodiversity and should strive to enhance the natural qualities of the land we acquire. He also indicated that we should be thinking about what to do with the land once we get it. Money should be used for recovery and restoration, mitigation, improving habitat corridors and removing barriers.

Action Items:

All need to review their layers in the CLAWG map and add the date your data was submitted and modify the title of each layer in a way that will enable other CLAWG members to understand what that layer really represents.

Provide Karin Messaros with your lessons learned for incorporation into the White Paper.

For Sam Cox--find CLAWG map link and provide to CLAWG members--completed 27 Aug 09.

Next Meeting: 29 Oct @ 10:00 in Barstow.