

SAMAB
Executive Committee Conference Call
August 12, 2014

Members Present: Gary Peeples, Susan Schexnayder, Rick Durbrow, Adam DeWitte, Carlton Murray, Judy Francis, Alice Cohen, Mark Healy, Monica Schwalbach, Neil Giffen

Meeting Lead: Rick Durbrow

Next Meeting(s): November 4th – Gatlinburg, TN

ITEM	DISCUSSION	Action, Contact(s) & Date
Agency Roundtable	<i>Judy:</i> DENR going through changes w/ new leadership. Helping out with Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Aquatic Nuisance Management Plan. <i>Neil:</i> Pat Parr is retiring in Sept. and hired new plant ecologist (Jamie Harold?). Battling emerald ash borer. Climate Change Resilience committee and how it might change the lab. <i>Alice:</i> Landscape Restoration Initiative. Sept. 3 rd event for designated forest lands in Knoxville. Sept. 6 th Field Day. <i>Mark:</i> Good budget year. Possible fire networking meeting in May. <i>Gary:</i> Endangered Species Act allows anyone to place a plant or animal on the ES list. Working through petitions and which will be included. <i>Susan:</i> Foundation has funding for Vitality Index project. <i>Carlton:</i> Expanding role at the Cradle of Forestry to increase workshops, conferences, etc. <i>Rick:</i> Stable budget so far. Reorg to happen the first of fiscal year to reduce management and shift priorities. Alice noted that Deputy Forest Supervisor has been hired and he has the November SAMAB meeting on his calendar. <i>Monica:</i> SRS continuing Stateline meetings to learn what research topics they are interested in and how to integrate new science into their projects.	
Administration Review	(Adam): Crystal, Carlton and I will be looking at the proposal for the 10K by next week to review. No new financial statements to update on. Pat has not contacted about additional funding. Southern Appalachian Mountain Coop agreement – Susan has signed on for the next five years.	*Neil will contact Pat on additional funding. Adam will send email. (Funding has been submitted per Pat & Crystal)
Strategic Plan/Revitalization	(Alice): Alice has begun a draft on a 5-year strategic plan. Target for finalizing this will be the November meeting. Email Alice with any specific comments on the draft. The Cooperative list should be updated to include only Cooperative members. Alice wants to look at the charter and locate possible Cooperative members. Where do we need to make changes? After one month there should be an updated version for one final version and possible meeting to make a final vote on it. Please see Alice’s draft for the general overview and send changes/updates to her. We should definitely get a final draft on the website to make it visible what the group is doing.	*Alice will coordinate w/ individuals separately. *Comments for this draft due in one month (September 15) w/ a follow up meeting to vote.
Community Decision Support Vitality Index APPLCC	(Judy): Foundation has approved funding for the Vitality Index (VI). 3-day workshop for ALCC to incorporate cultural resource considerations into land management decisions. Partnering w/ researchers in developing GIS modeling to identify conservation priorities. Invited to attend event in sept. to present the VI to the steering committee. Judy will not be able to attend and present the VI and the LCC can’t change the agenda. Jim can do the presentation if he can do it via the web. Judy feels that the VI can still be used but not used in the way SAMAB originally hoped for. Rick feels that Jean is helping to push the VI to the steering committee and the ALCC.	*Jim can do a webinar on the VI for the LCC steering committee.
Biosphere Reserves/Brochure	(Susan): Brochure is meant to be internal and answers the question “what is a biosphere reserve”? US Biosphere Reserve application was rejected with MAB, although there are interested parties who would like to keep the US involved. No date set for next meeting with MAB. In limbo as far as what to put into the brochure. Talked about a certain amount of money, but a formal proposal was never put in. No money was allocated.	

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Communications Review/DLA	(Gary): Developed a draft communications plan to include cooperative members who have not yet been engaged. Please see Gary's communication plan for specific details – email Gary or Adam for copies. Overview: "This communications plan is designed to re-engage non-participating SAMAB member agencies through 1) direct contact with agency leadership, 2) active recruitment of representation to the SAMAB executive committee, and 3) engagement with our current signature product, the Vitality Index." There will be opportunities for social media campaigns in the future, but isn't necessarily a priority for this communication draft. This draft will be helpful when meeting with Steffi in moving forward with her and website/social media campaigns. No Scott to update us on DLA.	*Feedback for Gary's plan to be due in one month (Sept. 15) to Gary.
Other Business/Leadership Change/Next meeting	(Rick): November is when we change leadership. Ideas for Vice-Chair are open for discussion unless someone is willing to step forward. Maybe the vice position should be another agency than the chair so there's variability in the leadership. Next meeting is November 4 in Gatlinburg. Will it be at Twin Creeks? Unicoi can also be a meeting spot per Alice. Topics for the agenda to be sent to Rick. No other business to discuss. Meeting adjourned.	*Next meeting is November 4 in Gatlinburg for face to face. *Rick will check with Jeff about using Twin Creeks. *Alice will send Rick information on Unicoi and the surrounding area. *Topics for the agenda to be emailed to Rick or Alice.