

Maine Wildlife Action Plan Steering Committee  
March 9, 2015  
1300 - 1630  
MDIFW, Augusta

Present: Barry Burgason (MFPC), Judy Camuso (MDIFW), Claire Enterline (DMR), Tim Glidden (MCHT), Amanda Shearin (MDIFW), Mark Stadler (MDIFW), Sally Stockwell (MAS), Angela Twitchell (BTLT), Nate Webb (MDIFW), Jed Wright (USFWS).

Phone-in: Phillip deMaynadier (MDIFW)

**Bold** = action item

~Review minutes of 02/05/2015 meeting / Approved

~Review of action items from 02/05/2015 meeting

- The committee asked MDIFW to advise partners of the revision of the outreach effort -- **MDIFW** will notify partners of this change with the email announcing the next partner meeting.
- The committee requested that MDIFW draft criteria to prioritize conservation actions for its consideration. MDIFW has prepared a draft prioritization process. Discussed later in the minutes.
- *Open Standards* training – Barbara volunteered to train agency staff and invited conservation partners in the use of the *Open Standards* to develop conservation actions. Presented later in the minutes.

~Updates for steering committee

- Friday, 03/13/2015 is the deadline for committee members to provide comments on the threats presented in SGCN, Habitat Reports.
- MDIFW will meeting with the USFWS and Maine Tribes (all tribes invited) to discuss Tribal Wildlife Grants, Maine's Wildlife Action Plan, and the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative. The meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2015 at Indian Island. Amanda told the committee that the meeting will be similar to our earlier meeting with landowners – providing an opportunity to discuss tribal and state wildlife / fisheries programs and areas of potential collaboration. Judy advised the committee that the Attorney General said MDIFW should not engage in discussion of jurisdictional issues. Tribal grants are competitive and don't require the preparation of a wildlife action plan.

Given the amount of work that has been accomplished to date on Maine's action plan up, Sally suggested that MDIFW provide the tribes with the necessary background and information prior to the meeting. Jed suggested a brief call to the tribes might be in order to facilitate this. The committee considered the possibility that species of concern to the tribes may not be included in Maine's list of SGCN. It concluded that this was unlikely, but should it occur, there is the option of expanding Maine's SGCN list to include species that are important to the culture and heritage of the tribes. Angela asked if there were examples of this in the action plans of other states. Sally wondered what other culturally important species other groups might have.

**Barbara** said she would like to attend the meeting. All agreed that this would be beneficial for the committee's deliberations and would also show the committee's support for collaborative efforts between Maine and the tribes.

- *Open Standards* training - using *Open Standards* to develop conservation actions. Barbara provided a summary of the training session that she and John Morrison [WWF] provided to MDIFW and MNAP staff, several steering committee members, and a few members from the broad group of conservation partners. She and John concluded that all grasped the process quickly and were able to use it to develop a conceptual model for the training exercise. Barbara told the committee that there is continued opportunity for coaching and more intense training. Jed suggested this may be an appropriate conservation action for inclusion in the 2015 plan.
- Step 1A, *A Process for **Developing** Conservation Actions for Maine's 2015 SWAP*  
Amanda and Nate provided a summary of the process and accomplishments of the freshwater / aquatic; marine / coastal; terrestrial; and wetland habitat groups in preparing conceptual models for habitats within their assigned group. The successful effort occurred during two, 1-day sessions attended and facilitated by individuals from MDIFW, MNAP, DMR, the steering committee, and conservation partners. The morning sessions were devoted to training and the afternoon sessions to break-out groups developing conceptual models. (See handouts provided, which are included.)

Claire asked whether developing the conceptual model flowcharts or the conservation actions is the highest priority. The committee concluded that developing the actions is most important, and that they should include as much detail as possible. Jed suggested that this may be a point to check back in John Morrison for ideas.

Nate presented an onscreen overview of a conceptual model developed during a habitat breakout session. The models developed during the Step1A break-out sessions are a flowchart mapping out the impact of various threats to the habitat and the strategy to eliminate or diminish that impact.

Amanda gave a summary of the completed habitats, those requiring additional work, and those yet to be started. The committee requested that **MDIFW** complete all unfinished work by the end of the week; then provide a five-day opportunity for members of the break-out groups to review the completed models; and then modify as appropriate to reflect review and provided the final conceptual models to MDIFW / RAS and DMR for consideration in their Step 1B work.

- Step 1B, *A Process for **Developing** Conservation Actions for Maine's 2015 SWAP*  
Phillip provided a summary of the Step 1B process currently ongoing at MDIFW. He wondered if the conceptual models prepared to date (Step 1A) are specific enough; he concluded that likely they are not for most strategies.

**MDIFW** will develop conservation action proposals for species, guilds, and habitats; staff will enter these into the database. Staff will be specific in their proposals and will also consider the 2005 action plan and its level of specificity. This work is scheduled for completion on March 23, 2015.

Barbara asked when the Step 1A information would be provided to RAS/DMR. Phillip responded that this effort is ongoing and a priority, but has not occurred yet.

The Steering Committee will meet on March 27, 2015 at Maine Forest Products Council to review, discuss, prioritize, and categorize (Step 2) the conceptual models developed in Steps 1A, 1B. MDIFW and partners will use the conceptual models to develop conservation actions.

*~A Process for **Prioritizing** Conservation Actions for Maine's 2015 SWAP*

Mark introduced a draft process for prioritizing conservation actions. The proposal is a system of 1) criteria to score proposed actions and 2) based on score, assignment of the conservation action to one of four tiers. (The proposal is included with the minutes.) A lively discussion ensued. No attempt is made herein to capture the extent of this discussion, but it revolved around three significant issues: process, scoring, and the prioritization criteria. At conclusion, the committee asked **MDIFW** to develop a revised draft reflecting its comments for its further review and consideration.

~Next conservation partner meeting

Possible dates: April 15-17

Location: Augusta area

~Other items

~Wrap-up thoughts, suggestions -None

~Next meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2015, 9:00 -11:30 am, MDIFW, Augusta