



**Town of Marana Habitat Conservation Plan  
Stakeholder Working Group  
Thursday, September 24, 2009, 1-3 pm  
Marana Operations Center, 5100 W. Ina Rd.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Larry Kreis, Red Point Development; Lori Woods, Recon (for the Town of Marana); Carolyn Campbell, Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection; Scott Richardson, USFWS; David Godlewski, SAHBA; Jennifer Christelman and Janine Spencer, Town of Marana. Sarah and John Kennedy attended as members of the audience.

**Unable to Attend:** Locana de Souza, AZGFD; Tim Bolton, State Land Dept.; Paul Popelka, Oro Valley; Matt Clark, Defenders of Wildlife;

**Introductions:** Members and visitors introduced themselves.

**August Meeting Minutes**

The draft August meeting minutes were sent out prior to this meeting for review. David Godlewski's name will be added to the list of attendees and the minutes will be posted on the Marana website.

Scott wanted to know where he can view a copy of the Draft Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Marana staff will look into this (it is not on the website, but information about it is on the website).

**Updates**

**Marana TBT Meeting combined with Pima County and City of Tucson**

The Marana TBT met for an hour prior to the combined meeting to discuss the following:

**Wildlife Corridor Discussion:** A map of the platted developments along the two proposed wildlife corridors to the east of I-10 was discussed. The TBT recommended that the north-south wildlife corridor be widened beyond the current 1 km to compensate for the fact that the NE-SW corridor that follows Prospect Wash is constricted by Tapestry Development at its northern end. Jennifer stated that Tapestry has not yet gone to final plat, and there is some opportunity to work with the developer to maintain some open space in the wash, by moving the house and disturbance footprints away from the wash. The lots are 3.3 acres in size and the maximum building footprints are 20,000 sq. ft. Larry, Carolyn, and Scott have been working to revise the Cascada development on the southern end of the wildlife corridors, to keep natural undisturbed open space (NUOS) along the corridor more open. The TBT is writing a letter recommending that Lambert Lane not be extended, because it will cut across the main wildlife corridor. Jennifer said it remains to be seen whether the Town will drop the idea of extending Lambert Lane or not. The wildlife corridor revised map, with platted developments was displayed for the Stakeholder Group.

It remains to be seen whether Lambert Lane may or may not be extended across the designated main north-south wildlife corridor. The Tangerine/ I-10 interchange has already been designed, reportedly with traffic volumes that would be inadequate without the Lambert Lane extension.

**ADOT Borrow Pit:** The TBT stated that in their professional opinion the use of disc golf and wildlife use, including a burrowing owl management area, are incompatible uses with overlapping times of day, seasons of use. The group is drafting a letter to this effect, to be provided to the Town.

### **TBT Combined Meeting with Pima County and the City of Tucson:**

The group discussed how to determine mitigation credit for conservation measures that have a greater value to wildlife than the size of their footprint. Some examples were the proposed I-10 and Oracle Road wildlife crossing structures, burrowing owl management areas with artificial structures and monitoring, research (for example, the Tucson shovel-nosed snake research project proposed by the Town of Marana and City of Tucson), providing habitat for pollinator species, habitat restoration projects, bat gates, stock tanks, and education. Brian Powell, Pima County, proposed a step guide to assist in determining mitigation credit: (1) are there covered species and associated habitat in the area or nearby, (2) what are the threats to the species that are being mitigated, (3) outline how proposed conservation actions address the threats, (4) provide alternatives and analyze for the likelihood of effectiveness, (5) an oversight group (i.e. “Biologist Super Group”) will evaluate the conservation measures, and (6) implement monitoring and adaptive management.

Scott suggested we identify conservation measures in our HCP that fit into the category described above, such as burrowing owl management areas (BOMAs), Tucson shovel-nosed snake research, and education related to the HCP goals and requirements. He has sent the 6-step guide to determining mitigation credit to the USFWS Regional Office for review and concurrence.

Carolyn wondered what happens if two jurisdictions are splitting a project and one doesn't follow through? Scott replied that there would be no credit for either party. Carolyn also stated that mitigation credit for research should be tied to on-the-ground measures that benefit covered species. Scott agreed and said that at the meeting the same concern was voiced.

### **Invasive Species Management Plan**

David provided a letter on behalf of SAHBA with comments on the Draft Invasive Species Management Program that was provided previously. No other comments were received from the SWG.

### **Zone Three Mitigation Formula**

The current language in the Draft HCP (pg. 4.0-5) simply says “Zone 3 would require the protection of between 40 and 70% of each parcel as NUOS, with riparian habitat and areas adjacent to existing NUOS to be given the highest priority. Parcels protecting less than 70% NUOS would be required to mitigate for the additional impacts. Corridors identified in the HCP and/or any new corridors identified through future research and monitoring will be protected.” The group was encouraged to provide input on how the mitigation will be accomplished. Carolyn said that Pima County requires off-site mitigation to be located in the same sub-region as the impacted area and Scott said that for Marana, any off-site mitigation has to be within the HCP permit area.

The group agreed that buying off-site land should be at a ratio of acre for acre, with adjacency to existing NUOS and wildlife corridors being highest priority. Providing in-lieu payment according to the market value of the land being impacted could be used to purchase riparian habitat or parcels in wildlife corridors.

Scott reminded the group that “nothing in the HCP says you can’t develop your property.” Marana should identify areas that are desirable for acquisition, such as areas entirely encompassed within a wildlife corridor, riparian habitat. Carolyn expressed a concern that off-site mitigation shouldn’t entirely consist of measures that exclude land acquisition; for example, saving only 40% NUOS with all mitigation fees going to nest boxes or research wouldn’t be comparable mitigation for the loss of species habitat. The mitigation priorities expressed were (1) land, (2) money for land acquisition, (3) other conservation measures (but other measures can not be the complete mitigation with no NUOS set-aside).

The Draft HCP currently states that conservation easements will be administered by the HOA or a third party. The Town will re-evaluate whether they are willing to take over the easements.

Marana will create an example showing how off-site mitigation acreage will be figured, i.e. if mitigation land is purchased in another zone with its own NUOS set-aside requirement, those acres will have to be subtracted out of the mitigation credit.

During a call to the audience, John Kennedy suggested that Moore Rd. could be connected to Dove Mt. and eliminate the road crosses Prospect Wash in the platted Tapestry Development. Jennifer said she would look into the possibility. The Kennedys also asked to be included on the email list for SWG meetings.

### **Field Trip for SWG and TBT**

Rich Glinski, of the Technical Biology Team (TBT) suggested a field trip for the groups to become more familiar on the ground with the area in the HCP permit boundaries. The SWG concurred that they would be interested in a half-day field trip, and said that a mix of SWG and TBT members would be more interesting. Janine will schedule 2 half-day field trips for people to choose from.

### **Action Items**

#### **Town Staff:**

- Jennifer will enquire into how Scott can get a copy of the Marana Parks & Recreation Master Plan for review.
- Janine will organize two field trip dates and let the TBT and SWG sign up for whichever day works for individuals.
- Janine will add Sarah and John Kennedy to the SWG mailing list
- Jennifer and Janine will create an example of mitigation land required when purchased within another Conservation Zone