

## SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2006

Attendees: Bill Shaw, Marit Alanen, Kerry Baldwin, Sherry Barrett, Scott Blackman, Carolyn Campbell, Neva Connolly, Catherine Crawford, Locana de Souza, Sam Drake, Doug Duncan, Diana Durazo, Julia Fonseca, Joyce Francis, Colby Henley, Andy Hubbard, Larry Jones, Natasha Kline, Jonathan Mabry, Cheryl McIntyre, Brian Powell, John Regan, Scott Richardson, Sherry Ruther, George Ruyle, Cecil Schwalbe, John Sullivan, Lori Woods, and Annette Plicato

Absent: Rick Brusca, Mima Falk, Bob Steidl, and Tom Van Devender

### Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

### Approval of June 8, 2006 STAT Minutes

The minutes were approved as written.

### SDCP Responsibilities and MSCP Update

Julia Fonseca summarized Mr. Huckelberry's memorandum of November 27, 2006 that gives an update on the ongoing implementation of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. The correspondence describes roles and responsibilities of Pima County employees and departments.

The MSCP and the EIS are available to the public online at <http://www.co.pima.az.us/cmo/sdcp/reports.html>. The County Administrator will bring forward a recommendation about an agreement with USFWS. The funding for the management monitoring phase of the MSCP is not fully developed.

### Biological Monitoring Plan Workshop Findings

Brian Powell handed out information on the progress and future development of the monitoring workshops. A total of six workshops were held. Five of them were technical (landscape pattern, vegetation, water and riparian resources, vertebrates (mammals and herps), and birds and one workshop was for the managers. These workshops were held because it was decided that asking experts to refine a pre-existing list of monitoring parameters for each subject matter was essential. These refined monitoring parameters were taken to the managers' workshop for ranking.

### Next steps/timeframe for Monitoring Plan Development

Brian explained that the next step in the process is applying for the Section 6 Grant requesting money to develop the plan. The application deadline is February 7, 2007. The application will be formally submitted by AZ Game and Fish Department.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of keeping the motivation going while waiting for the grant decision.

### Grant Proposal to WCS

Brian indicated that this grant application did not make it to the final phase. Over 500 applications were submitted.

### Funding. IGAs for monitoring plan development

Julia handed out information on issues to consider for an ecological monitoring intergovernmental agreement. Building a regional monitoring partnership is very important. The IGA is about working together on monitoring by sharing resources but would not convey or obligate money.

### Additional expertise needed for Monitoring Subcommittee

The Chairman and Brian have identified the need to add expertise to the Monitoring Subcommittee. Invitations to join the subcommittee will be forthcoming..

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Water Resources Research Center at 350 N. Campbell Avenue.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Plicato