**NOTES: Section-2 - 10:20-10:40 - State-led Initiatives**

**10:20**

**State Perspectives:**

**Greg Wathen, TN** - Build on progress of AppLCC; lot of work that bears fruit and want that to continue; within TN would love to align the LCC data products more closely w SWAP; address disconnect between East and West TN formerly divided by LCC lines; leadership role on SECAS and see App partnership as an important connector to SE/NE landscapes.

* within TN would love to align the LCC data products more closely w SWAP
* address disconnect between East and West TN formerly divided by LCC lines
* leadership role on SECAS

**Kendrick Weeks, NC** - echo; landscape conservation paradigm has been focused on cores/corridors and the AppLCC tools go a long way toward addressing landscape goal to all partners regardless of affiliation to use the tools developed from their perspective in context of larger perspective; interested in making sure that all of the partner entities have easy and clear communication and knowledge of AppLCC and other landscape design tools to promote landscape scale conservation. The cultural component is interesting and can be shared with others who will benefit outside our partnership; synergistic landscape conservation.

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**Diana Day, PA** – Speaking for Fish & Boat Commission; SWAP is the connection to larger landscape conservation efforts for state agencies; SWAPs are great tools and there is collaboration between states but more broadly the SWAPs need to be knitted across state boundaries to understand better how to connect state’s conservation efforts to a larger landscape; interested in how this group will continue to help with that and this will determine my future participation; great projects under AppLCC and that has been important to us.

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**REQUESTED UPDATE AS POSTED ON THE AGENDA BY TOPIC**

**By TOPIC: AFWA actions related to landscape conservation’s future**

**David Whitehurst, VDGIF** Discussion of AFWA actions related to landscape conservation’s future in the agencies; with Administration it became apparent that future of LCCs likely not continuing and that led to meeting of Exec Comm of AFWA and Directors of FWS and development of Work Group between AFWA and FWS within Wildlife Policy, Jim Douglas of NE Chair; FWS employees, former LCC staff, state agency staff worked to develop a white paper (see HOTLINK in agenda – this is on AppLCC portal) to evaluate strengths and weaknesses in each region of the country, with conclusions including concensus that we still need to do landscape conservation and during No. American conference there was a session and it was also discussed there during AFWA and FWS Directors’ meetings. Basically, FWS is now asking AFWA how we can continue with landscape conservation and FWS wants to emphasize at-risk species; FY18 funds approved by Congress; FWS wants feedback from states via AFWA on use of those funds for priorities regionally. Discussion back and forth from “we need on the ground help with at-risk species” to “we need to continue pursuing landscape design to guide conservation.” FWS has significant staff in ROs; states want to maintain capabilities of those staff; Regional Associations may take a bigger role in the future. Looking at on-going projects done by LCCs that need to be maintained. For us, NatureScape can be downscaled to TRB, national and global hotspot for aquatics and crosses two AFWA regions. Instead of a strength, NE Directors are less likely to support and we need to advocate through NEAFWA/SEAFWA. WG gathering responses on priorities for potential funding over next 30 days.

* [Meeting of Exec Comm of AFWA and Directors of FWS and development of Work Group between AFWA and FWS within Wildlife Policy]
	+ concensus that we still need to do landscape conservation;
	+ FWS is now asking AFWA how we can continue with landscape conservation
		- FWS wants to emphasize at-risk species
		- FWS has significant staff in ROs
	+ FY18 funds approved by Congress
		- FWS wants feedback from states via AFWA on use of those funds for priorities regionally
		- states want to maintain capabilities of those (FWS-Science Application) staff;
	+ Regional Associations may take a bigger role in the future
		- Looking at on-going projects done by LCCs that need to be maintained
		- For us(Appalachian region), NatureScape can be downscaled to TRB,
			* NE Directors are less likely to support and we need to advocate through NEAFWA/SEAFWA
			* [Response Mallory Martin FWS-R4-SA] having a geography (of the GAC Partnership) that transcend means there will be intersections between FWS Regions and decisions to be made about how to handle that

**By TOPIC: SECAS update**

**Greg Wathen, TN** – From AFWA Landscape WG, states need to provide recommendations mostly regarding FY18 funding. In SE still significant capacity available and they’ve been working on plan to sustain SECAS and other landscape planning activities. Ed Carter et al. preparing memo to lay out where (the AFWA Policy) Work Group(thinking) is right now and (Directors) recommend SECAS continue, along with those projects under it. Without LCCs to provide the governance and technical skills, we have to figure out where those will come from. Other important issue is longer term having to do with conversations between states and FWS, white paper last recommendation to broaden conversation out to NGOs. Need to have those conversations through fall and come up with a strategy for landscape conservation that includes more stakeholders. Strides made in AppLCC regarding cultural resources and we need to include other stakeholders with those broader perspectives.

* (SE Directors) recommend SECAS continue, along with those projects under it
* [Near-term] Without LCCs **to provide the governance and technical skills**, we have to figure out where those will come from…. currently having to do with conversations between states and FWS
* [Longer term] Need to have those conversations through fall and **come up with a strategy for landscape conservation that includes more stakeholders** …(As noted above point) currently having to do with conversations between states and FW (but in the) white paper, last recommendation, to broaden conversation out to NGOs.
* (this is emphasized by the) strides made in AppLCC regarding cultural resources and we need to include other stakeholders with those broader perspectives
* [Response David Whitehurst VDGIF] Other issue is how to engage other non-FWS agencies.
* [Response Dan Odess NPS(+CR)] NPS wants to get guidance from states on priorities and what do they want federal agencies to do to support them?
* [Response Rick Durbrow EPA-SE] SENRLG (Southeast have worked on SECAS development and see that as an avenue to participate.

***Reference Material Hotlink***

1. AFWA (State Fish & Wildlife Agency) discussions with FWS - David Whitehurst, VA DGIF recap. (Greg Wathen, TN WRA also author on White Paper)
*Reference Material Hotlink:* [*“Landscape Conservation Collaboration” White Paper*](http://applcc.org/partner-developments/partner-events/afwa-association-of-fish-and-wildlife-agencies/afwa-landscape-conservation-collaboration-a-white-paper/view)
2. NEAFWA Directors Meeting (April) – Paul Johansen, WV DNR
3. (SEAFWA) SE Climate Adaptation Strategy) – Greg Wathen, TN WRA & Mallory Martin, FWS-SE (Science Applications)
*Reference Material Hotlink: “*[*Developing the SECAS blueprint*](http://applcc.org/partner-developments/partner-events/secas-southeast-conservation-adaptation-strategy/developing-and-implementing-the-secas-blueprint/view)