**Appalachian Conservation Partners Meeting**

# **AGENDA**

# **Ice-breaker: December 4th (7-9 pm) - NCTC Rachel Carson Lodge… Informal discussion & social**

# **Day 1 December 5th (8:00am-5:00pm)**

**Early-morning 8:00 – 10:00**

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| **Plenary: 111 Instructional East – Begins 8:00 AM**  Call-in number: 1-866-832-8172 … Access code: 495 184 7  from **8am-12:00** -- Webex:. Meeting number: 746 810 899  Meeting link: <https://mmancusa.webex.com/mmancusa/j.php?MTID=md967d5407bedd51806dac5c9a0a7c714>  Meeting password: Eq7xjEk@  **Welcome & Housekeeping.**  **Introduce the meeting organization -- how the agenda fits together to address the objectives. Introductions.** [Facilitator: Rich Minnis, NCTC]  ***“Setting the scene”*** [Gwen Brewer MDNR]  *What brings us together? What are we trying to accomplish that we can’t do alone and what needs to happen for landscape-scale conservation in the Appalachians that isn’t going to happen any other way? There is a need to focus on aspirational goals. Honest feedback is essential.*  **Session I**. **Review LCC Partnership Experience.** [in Plenary]  **Session I Outcome:** Start the process to re-imagine a partnership to address issues and challenges that can only or best be addressed as a landscape-level collaborative. We will explore “What” (priorities), “Why” (values), “Where” (can we realize benefits of earlier investment), and “How” (must the partnership structure change to realize that potential.)   1. ***Presentation: Values, Motivation, and Priorities*** *-- “What we heard from the Partners”.* [Maddie Brown, Landscape Conservation Fellow, AppLCC and Post-Doctoral Cultural Researcher, Penn State University] 2. ***Facilitated Discussion: “What else? Let’s take stock”****…*the ’good’, the ‘bad,’ and what ‘needs improvement’ and how. [Rich Minnis, Facilitator]   (Note Taker: Nastaran Tebyanian, PSU)   1. ***Integrated Response to Qs during Discussions:*** “Remind me…” *“What we’ve created” and “What we’ve learned”*[Jean Brennan, AppLCC] |
| **Break** |
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| **Mid-morning 10:15 – 12:00** |
| **In Breakout Groups:**  \*Notes will be recorded electronically to share with remote folks in Report Outs  \* Note different call-in lines & no web links  **[Group 1~Northern. 111 Instructional East]**  Call-in number: 1-866-832-8172 … Access code: 495 184 7  (Note taker: Nastaran)  **[Group 2~Regional. 112 Instructional East]**  Call-in number: 1-866-762-5634 … Access code: 495 815 2  (Note taker: Maddie)  **[Group 3~Southern. 151A Instructional West]**  Call-in number: 1-866-836-7935 … Access code: 225 6475 0  (Note taker: Jean)  **Session II. Partner Priorities** [Breakout Work Groups]  **Session II Outcome:** Each group generates a list of priorities, grouped by relative ranking (Tiers) of importance to collectively achieve landscape conservation in key regions of Appalachia. This should help define the unique role/purpose that this Partnership is to serve as well as why your organization should make a commitment to serve as a Partner.   1. ***Focus at the “high-level” (of “Why the Partnership” in terms of Priorities)*** vs. “How and With Whom” at the lower, implementation level….that comes this afternoon. Think “*Function (strategic mission)*” vs. “*Feasibility (project execution or implementation)*” levels. [Rich Minnis] 2. ***Integrated Response to Qs during Discussions:***  the LCC Partnership Mission Statement and Results Framework; Work Plan Goals (not Objective-level)**.**[Jean Brennan, AppLCC] |
| 1. **Working Lunch –** [Lounge of the Dining Commons (Ground Floor)] |

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| **After Lunch 1:00 – 5:00** |
| **Plenary: 111 Instructional East – Begins 1:30 PM**  Call-in number: 1-866-832-8172 … Access code: 495 184 7   1. **Wrap-up Session II:** Report-Out & Facilitated Discussion [Rich Minnis]   **Session III. New Ideas. New Opportunities.** [in Plenary]  \* Note call-in lines & web link different than morning  from 1:30pm-5pm -- WebEx Meeting number: 747 811 727  Meeting link: <https://mmancusa.webex.com/mmancusa/j.php?MTID=m7feaa5a439fcfbe21d6ae58d13c3e5b7>  Meeting password: HvTx7gj@  **Session III Outcome:** Produce a quick list of existing or evolving opportunities (programmatic or funding). Based on discussion, rank them in terms of their strategic value to helping launch this level of the Partnership based on value to the Partnership and top tier priorities.   1. ***Presentation: Ideas for the future*** *– Interview survey results: “What we heard from the Partners”.* [Maddie Brown] 2. ***Invited Panel “lighting round” information sharing:*** What’s changed that may offer **New Opportunities**?   [Suggested Panelists]    * Southeast (State) Directors/SEAFWA: SECAS – Bill Uihlein, FWS-SE    * Northeast (State) Directors/NEAFWA: Paul Johansen, WV DNR    * EPA (“Collaborative Federalism”) Support to States: Bill Jenkins, R3    * NRCS/Working Lands for Wildlife focal species Partnership: Bridgett Costanzo, NRCS-WLFW-NE    * Tennessee River Basin Network Commitment: Evan Crews, TVA    * Appalachian Trail Conservancy: Wendy Janssen, NPS-AT    * Others….   (Note taker: Maddie)   1. ***Facilitated Discussion:*** illustrative questions: (i) **Which opportunities represent strategic linkages** that we may wish to pursue in advancing this new partnership? (ii) **Why does it represents a strategic investment** by a network or focal area partners that also serve to advance the Partnership? (iii) **What role should the US Fish & Wildlife Service** play in transitioning beyond the LCC-model? [Rich Minnis]   (Note taker: Nastaran) |
| **Break** |
| **In Breakout Groups:**  \* Note different call-in lines & no web links  **[Group 1~Northern. 111 Instructional East]**  Call-in number: 1-866-832-8172 … Access code: 495 184 7  (Note taker: Nastaran)  **[Group 2~Regional. 112 Instructional East]**  Call-in number: 1-866-762-5634 … Access code: 495 815 2  (Note taker: Maddie)  **[Group 3~Southern. 151A Instructional West]**  Call-in number: 1-866-836-7935 … Access code: 225 6475 0  (Note taker: Jean)  **In Plenary: 111 Instructional East**  **Session IV. The Foundation of Commitment and Structure of the Partnership**  from 1:30pm-5pm -- WebEx Meeting number: 747 811 727  Meeting link: <https://mmancusa.webex.com/mmancusa/j.php?MTID=m7feaa5a439fcfbe21d6ae58d13c3e5b7>  Meeting password: HvTx7gj@  **Session IV Outcome:** This is envisioned as an honest appraisal of what’s needed for a landscape-level collaborative to deliver, in terms of value to make it worthwhile to enter into the partnership; to capture the reason why our conservation community should support or advocate for its unique benefits to the partner and partnership; and to clearly articulate up-front what is needed to get solid commitments from members before moving on to building and realizing this newly defined partnership. If we do not identify the foundational commitment, we need to ask if our affiliation is more as a professional network vs. an active and mutually reinforcing partnership.  ***Report-Out and Facilitated Discussion:*** Illustrative questions: (i) What does the partnership relationship need to look like to achieve earlier identified priorities? (ii) To keep you and your organization engaged? (iii) How might recent national changes influence our path forward as a Partnership? (iv) What role do the partners identify for FWS and other federal agencies? and (v) How might the partnership structure, staffing, and financial support change to best serve the need, changes, and opportunities?  *[Rich Minnis, Facilitator]*  (Note taker: Nastaran & Maddie split time) |
| **Break for Dinner** |
| **(7-9 pm) - NCTC Rachel Carson Lodge**…Continue discussion but in a more informal / social setting. Keep track of your great ideas and brain-storming so you can share with the group tomorrow morning. |

# **Day 2. December 6th (8:00am- 12:00pm. 111 Instructional East).** Additional room is still available for work groups to continue their follow-up planning until 3:00pm.

**Morning Session 8:00 – 12:00**

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| **In Plenary – 111 Instructional East**  from 8am-noon …. WebEx Meeting number: 746 598 763  Meeting Link: <https://mmancusa.webex.com/mmancusa/j.php?MTID=m61c8d9d554cff815a73e91f9a95059e0>  Meeting password: vHPM8GY@  **Announcements** [Rich Minnis]  **Wrap-up Session IV:**   1. **Ad-hoc Report-Out** of brilliant insights generated at last night’s social 2. **Quick Recap** of Yesterday’s work [Rich Minnis] 3. **Facilitated Discussion** *Going forward, what remains to be done now?* |
| **Break** |

**Planning Team:** Gwen Brewer, MDNR; Bridgett Costanzo, NRCS WLFW; Bill Jenkins, EPA-R3; Jean Brennan, FWS-R5 Science Applications, Mike Slattery, FWS-Partnerships, Maddie Brown, PSU, Rich Minnis, NCTC. Special thanks to Tim Murtha of PSU for providing note taking services of Nastaran Tebyanian, and NCTC Conservation Partners Support for access to meeting facilities and facilitation services of Rich Minnis for Division of Training.

**Group Assignments for Breakouts:**

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| **Group 1 (Northern)** | **Group 2 (Regional)** | **Group 3 (Southern)** |
| Gwen Brewer, MDNR | Danny Lee, USFS-SR | Evan Crews, TVA |
| Bill Jenkins, EPA-R3 | Bridgett Costanzo, NRCS-NE | Rick Durbrow, EPA-R4 |
| Perry Wheelock, NPS-NCR | Paul Johansen, WV | Ray Albright, NPS-SE |
| Jon Gassett, WMI | Dick Cole, ACE | Bill Uihlein, FWS-R4 |
| Tom O'Connell, USGS | Wendy Janssen, NPS | Jon Ambrose, GDNR |
| //Dennis Shaffer, ATC | Jeff Lerner, HWC | Mike Slattery, FWS-R5 |
| //Cale Godfrey, VDGIF | //Lois Uranowski, OSMRE-R1 | //Cindy A. Williams, FWS-R4 |
| //Ellen Mecray, NOAA | //Karl Schrass, NWF-MidAtl | //Rob Baldwin, Clemson |
| //Kelly Watkinson, LTA | //David Whitehurst, VDGIF | //Harold Peterson, BIAE |
|  | //Bill Labich, Highstead Foundation | //Kendrick Weeks, NCWRA |
| **111 Instructional East** | **112 Instructional East** | **151A Instructional West** |