Joint Annual Meeting of the Great Plains and Great Rivers CESUs
Tuesday February 7, 2017 3:20-4:40PM

Led by Dr. Larkin Powell, Director Great Plains CESU

Introduction
Larkin Powell:
   Welcome
   Introductions made by everyone at the meeting (see attendee list at the bottom)

Announcements
Larkin Powell:
   Purpose of the CESU: Facilitates the transfer of funds and expertise through cooperative agreements between federal partners and non-federal (university, NGO etc.) partners.
   CESU Structure: Located in every region throughout US. Includes a host university, faculty/admin act as director, NPS research coordinator at all offices, if funds allow, office coordinator. Managers committee of all 12 federal partners.

Tom Fish:
   Updates on CESU National Program: Support Funding 2015 for each CESU. In the past, new federal partners paid a one-time fee of $10,000 to support the CESU. The new arrangement is for each Federal partner to support each CESU they are a member of $1800 for Host University and CESU support to provide for office space, meetings, etc. To date, 13 federal partners committed to this annual support for 5 years, beginning in 2015. To date, BLM has not committed to this agreement, which reduces annual funding to each CESU of which they are a partner. Remaining funds owed from FY15 and FY16 to the individual CESUs will (hopefully) be forth coming in FY17. Federal partners are being encouraged to provide the funding owed for all 5 years in a single payment. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has provided their funding owed for 2 years.

Add streamlining-Council new partner, draft amendment, all have to sign within 45 days, then executed. Provision includes a non-response considered a yes after 45 days. No longer will need signatures for all partners.

National CESU-Minority fellowship: PhD projects, work in National Office Research student graduate student at each CESU working on projects, develop cohort.


Illinois consortium, Mississippi River. Coordinate across groups.
National Office-Sheri’s old position not filled yet
NCTC June 2018 Shepardstown, WV
Database-still working on it
Bring Back Director’s Call

Updates from the Three Midwest CESUs
Great Plains-Larkin Powell:
- Fully staffed office, 5-year review, SNR 5 year review, 21 non-federal, 12 federal,
- database still updating new and archive agreements, newsletter, support funding from
  UNL-IANR. National Meeting at NCTC-Kat and Tanya attend, Mississippi River
  Consortium participation, Host Univ. Center for Great Plains Studies-Local participation,
  Revised Strategic Plan-Mission, Purpose.

Great Lakes-Northern Forest-Erin Williams:
- Director of Great Lakes, Alan Ek, has retired, funding challenges with University of
  Minnesota. The CESU is currently going through their 5-year review, developing an
  annual plan and a strategic plan. They have nine federal members and 45 non-fed
  members. Not a lot of federal activity. 5-10% annually host university coming to projects
  coming to University of Minnesota. Added three members, 3 more waiting for renewal
  process.

Great Rivers-Jill Findeis/Nicole Athearn:
- Jill-Added new partner, St. Louis University, 2 more seeking membership. Add funding,
  hiring graduate student, newsletter. Planning road trips to other universities. Reaching
  out to graduate students and faculty in spring. Website update.

Nicole-Science management, LCC partnerships, collaborate with academic institutions
get the best research done. Good overhead rates for partners.

Special Presentation
Larkin Powell:
- Great Plains CESU presents Graduate Student Award to Jeremy Brunette, a former UNL
  student. The award was accepted by Dr. Matt Douglass, UNL and Dr. Dawn Bringleson,
  NPS-MWAC. We hope this award will serve to encourage students to participate in
  CESU projects.

NPS-UNL Agreement
Tom Fish:
- The NPS-MWAC and UNL project is a great example of the benefits of communicating
  our work to show impact. We should develop a communication strategy. Ideas about
  outreach visibility, poster session, templates, video-short vignettes: explains projects,
  collaboration.

Federal Agency Priorities and Needs
Larkin Powell:
Federal Agency—Share priorities, funding projects, what do you see on the horizon that universities can help you with.

Tanya Shenk:
The NPS wants to increase their work with universities staff and students because such collaborations often result in more unique and comprehensive results. For the Midwest Region of the NPS, the three CESU research coordinators have a single supervisor who is supportive of the CESUs and their growth. We are encouraged to increase the number of PI’s at our different partner universities to work on NPS CESU projects and to increase our outreach to add new non-federal partners. NPS wants to maximize our efforts to connect the most appropriate and effective partners to work with parks. In particular, we need expertise on grazing impacts and best management practices for National Parks, and bat and bison conservation researchers. We also want to further develop our relationships with the LCCs and investigation how the CESUs and the LCCs can work together to provide research and technical assistance to parks.

David Weindorf:
Send RSOI to sponsor programs, associate dean’s office to get the word out. Issues with non-US citizens. They cannot work in federal job. Federal agencies contradicts what universities advocate.

Merben Cebrain:
BIA-Tribes have more funds than they can use internally. No staff to do the studies and so they contract with universities. There are 36 tribes in Midwest region.

Erin Williams:
For the NPS, the CESU role is to help Parks identify their research, technical assistance and education needs and connect the parks to CESU partners who can help to fill those needs. Examples include pollinator conservation, initiate and implement citizen science programs, cultural resource preservation, conducting visitor surveys, conduct historical research, build contact lists, and conducting human dimensions studies.

Lisa Kunza:
Tribe funds research for students that come in. NSF funded.

Tom Fish:
Reminded us that the CESUs are designed to facilitate research, technical assistance and education between federal and non-federal partners. Thus, collaborations can include more than just research, and universities have capabilities in technical assistance and education.

Gwen White:
LCC fund applied research, gap. Develop tool to make decision-making process. Managers, policy, multi-LCC initiatives, agriculture, urban context, urban planning for conservation of prairie, pollinators butterflies.

Closing Remarks
Larkin Powell:
Suggestions for future annual meetings? Should we continue with meetings held during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference?

Thanks to all participants. Attendees enjoyed conversation and networking as the meeting closed.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Athearn</td>
<td>NPS Research Coordinator Great Rivers-CESU/University of Missouri</td>
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<td>Jill Findeis</td>
<td>Director Great Rivers-CESU/University of Missouri</td>
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<td>John Carroll</td>
<td>Director School of Natural Resources/University of Nebraska-Lincoln</td>
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<td>Milt Haar</td>
<td>NPS Missouri National Recreational River</td>
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<td>Matt Douglass</td>
<td>College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources/University of Nebraska-Lincoln</td>
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<td>Lisa Kunza</td>
<td>South Dakota School of Mines and Tech</td>
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<td>Mark Dixon</td>
<td>University of South Dakota</td>
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<td>Merben Cebrian</td>
<td>Bureau of Indian Affairs-Midwest Region</td>
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<td>Dawn Bringelson</td>
<td>NPS Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC)</td>
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<td>Gwen White</td>
<td>Eastern Tallgrass/Big Rivers Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC)</td>
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<td>David Weindorf</td>
<td>Texas Tech University</td>
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<td>Justin VandeHey</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point</td>
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<td>Tom Fish</td>
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