

State of California
Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Branch

July 2024 Meeting Notes for
Multi-Agency Monarch and Pollinator Collaborative

Monarch Multi-Agency Collaborative, Management Oversight Group (MOG)

July 23, 2024, 9 – 10:30 am

Attendees: Alison Ainsworth (NPS), Daniel Applebee (CDFW), Patricia Bohls (CDFA), Melissa Burns (USFWS), Jon Gustafson (NRCS), Mike Hamilton (DoD), Adam Johnson (USFWS), Patti Krueger (USFS), Christina Lund (BLM), Kevi Mace (CDFA), Jennifer Norris (WCB), Luz Quinnell (CalTrans), Alicia Torregrosa (USGS), Jill Townzen (CDPR), Darrin Thome (USGS)

Facilitators: Scott Gardner (CDFW), Hillary Sardiñas (CDFW)

Notetaker: Julea Shaw (CDFW)

Announcements

Take Flight Meeting (Hillary and Melissa)

- WAFWA Virtual Partners Meeting Sept 5, 10, 12 (Three half-day meetings 9 – 1 pm Pacific)
 - o Hillary will be presenting about the MOG's work and will share the presentation with the MOG for feedback
- Many Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members are facilitating sessions, and some are presenting
- Attendance is encouraged. It is a great opportunity to hear from experts and shape the update to the WAFWA Monarch Conservation Plan

Monarch Conservation Series Presentation 7/23/24 for Monarch Joint Venture (Hillary)

- Hillary is presenting Monarch butterfly conservation work in California, including information about the MOG

State Wildlife Grant (SWG) for CA Bumble bee Atlas (Hillary)

- SWG was awarded to continue efforts to survey bumble bees in California via successful community science project led by CDFW and Xerces Society.
- Contact Hillary if you want to get involved and conduct surveys on your lands
- This work will dovetail nicely with the WAFWA western bumble bee Conservation Plan that will be discussed on day 3 of the Take Flight Meeting

Review of April MOG Notes for posting on website (Julea)

- Decision on process: notes will be sent to MOG members for approval, any corrections will be sent to Hillary or Julea, and the MOG will then vote via a simple aye/nay vote to post notes
- Requested revisions for April notes
- Vote to approve approved April notes upon edit incorporation by Aye/Nay vote
 - o Unanimously voted to approve

Website is live (Hillary)

- [New webpage for MOG](#) is live.
- Overview of webpage contents including accordions with resources for agency biologists. Please let us know if there are resources we can add.

MOU Check-In

- The final version of the MOU has been sent out to each agency for signature. We are making progress since the last meeting, but signatures are still needed.
- The MOU was structured so that we do not need all signatures for it to go into effect for signatories.
- Hillary has written a brief explainer about the group and MOU. She can share it if it would be helpful in the signature request process.
- Discussion: Once we do have all signatures, should the MOU be posted on the website?
 - o Yes – consensus reached that it should be posted on the website
- Action Item: Obtain signatures on MOU. Ask Hillary to share informative digest prepared for management, if needed.

Adding new partners – CalFire

- CalFire has expressed interest in participation in the group.
- Review of process for adding new members in the MOU.
 - o Two levels of participation: partner or non-partner
- Proposed next steps:
 - o Scott and Hillary will meet with CalFire to provide background on the MOG and explain the participation levels
 - o They will invite a CalFire representative to observe a meeting, so they can decide on their desired participation level
 - o Discussion

- Dan Applebee suggested that CalFire provide an overview on lands they own, their fuels reduction program and how their actions might intersect with pollinators
- Consensus on process and next steps reached

TAC update: Action Table Next Steps

- The TAC is consolidating action items identified over the last year through review of WAFWA 50 Year Plan and Washington DC Summit Priorities into a table
- TAC Plans to finish the table by Monday August 5. Will send to MOG.
- Next step: Each agency will rank the actions in the table by priority level (not a priority to high priority). Due October 1. Will discuss priority actions at October MOG meeting

Report

- The ultimate goal is to use the information in the Action Table to create a report
- USGS is working with their graphic designer on our conceptual model
- Discussion: Advise on how to write the report in a collaborative way
 - Hillary Sardiñas: We are thinking about creating a template for different sections to help with standardization. We will then have TAC members volunteer to write sections. We will then do live editing sessions and have a team go through and standardize language
 - Scott Gardner: Sounds like a good path forward
- Discussion: How do we want to get final approval on the report?
 - Darrin Thome: For a Federal Bureau, it's difficult to do a local plan but say it represents the national perspective
 - Patty Krueger: USFS can get it signed off on regional level. Could others sign on regional level?
 - Darrin: Column headers in the table – may need to be changed to USGS SW Region
 - Patty: Suggests leaving as they are for formatting purposes, but adding a note about which region is responding (keep at lowest level)
 - Hillary: We can add a page within report to define partners and specify the jurisdictional range
 - Jon Gustafson: We just went through this on a different report and had to include disclaimers for each section to clarify authority and jurisdiction. A standard disclaimer would be helpful. All members participated, not all missions apply to all sections – this may make it easier.

- Hillary: In addition to the group priorities, we want to include partner highlights to show how agencies are already working on actions for many of the topics. Goal is to have a highlight for each agency.
 - o Action item: Start thinking about projects you may want to highlight for your agency.

Next Steps

- Action Prioritization
 - o TAC will send finalized spreadsheet out for ranking Aug. 5
 - o Action prioritization due by Oct 1
 - o Next MOG will discuss
- Explore doing a site visit to monarch overwintering site in winter. January is when WAFWA members are coming, so it is a good opportunity to collaborate across states.
- Next meeting (October 22) will be in-person at CDFW West Sacramento Office.