

Final Final Final

**Desert Tortoise Council  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**15 November 2014  
DoubleTree Hilton, Ontario, California**

The meeting was called to order by Bruce Palmer at 09:30 a.m. **Action items are in blue, with responsible parties in red. Motions made, seconded, and approved (or not) are shown in bold red font.**

**Attendees:** Kristin Berry, Glenn Stewart, Pete Woodman, Ken MacDonald, Michael Tuma, Cristina Jones, Scott Abella, Maggie Fusari, Chris Noddings, Mari Quillman, Bruce Palmer, Becky Jones, Joe Probst, Ed LaRue. **Absent:** Jason Jones **Guests:** None.

**A. Introductions:** No guests were in attendance at this Board meeting.

**B. Review Agenda:** New issues were incorporated as needed.

**C. Meeting Minutes of 23 August 2014:** Ed LaRue prepared draft minutes at the last Board meeting in Ontario, CA, which were distributed, reviewed, and were approved today as final. **Motion made (Kristin Berry), seconded (Glenn Stewart), and approved to accept the draft minutes as amended to be final.**

**D. Review of Board Actions Since Last Board Meeting:**

**1. AGFD Operation Game Thief:** The Council approved expenditure of \$500 to Arizona Game and Fish Department as a reward for information leading to the apprehension of the person who killed a juvenile tortoise in Arizona. That person has not been apprehended, so money not spent to date.

**2. Expenditure Policy:** After receiving input from the Board, this policy was approved on 9/14/2014. The final policy is now a matter of record, with full Board endorsement.

**3. Tortoise Habitat Restoration BMP:** After in depth discussion, Scott Abella (who will receive technical assistance from Kristin Berry) was awarded \$8,000 for Best Management Practices for tortoise habitat restoration, with the product due in time to present at the 2015 Symposium in February. Scott Abella and Kristin Berry recused themselves from this vote.

**E. Officer/Committee Reports:**

**1. Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was distributed by Joe Probst. Current total assets are \$284,003.28. We received \$2,381.38 for book sales at the recent Workshops. Given expenses and income (minus a few outstanding expenses), Workshop income was \$27,629. The Union Bank card was compromised, so Joe Probst has taken care of this, and no funds were lost. **Motion made (Ken MacDonald), seconded (Chris Noddings), and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as final.**

**2. Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Becky Jones reported on a few letters received, which were forwarded to Ed LaRue. There was also a request supporting education at Mitchell Caverns.

**3. Membership Coordinator's Report:** Mari Quillman provided a formal report via email on 11/12/2014. There are 1,800 records in the data base. Her membership database reveals we have 504 total members with 411 active, 87 having lapsed since August 22nd, the data for which are also in her report. The database is working fine at the moment, with a few lingering glitches. New members as a result of the Workshops are not yet on the list. Some have renewed their membership as the result of receiving the Symposium notice. We could have the computer at events to allow membership renewal. **Mari Quillman, Maggie Fusari, and Mary Cohen will work on a glitch that currently does not allow membership renewal with Symposium registration.**

Mari also circulated a "Member Interest List" that queries members how they may want to be involved, which should be put on the website. **Board members are requested to provide new ideas for Mari's member interest list.** An extensive "compensation list" was provided, including mostly agencies and a few councils, societies, and individuals whose memberships have been freely compensated. **Board members are asked to provide Mari with email addresses for additional groups and individuals whose membership should be provided for free.** We should be actively collecting email addresses for these and other agency contacts. This is more of an agency "contact list" than a list of agencies whose members have been "compensated." Mari put together wording to be put on the Matriarch print provided to Solution Strategies International Inc. for facilitating our retreat, which will incorporate our new logo (see below).

**4. Awards Committee Report:** Glenn Stewart sent out an email yesterday regarding nominees for awards. The Annual Award remains undisclosed to maintain the element of surprise. The other award nominees are as follows: Research - Kenneth A. Nagy and team: Lisa C. Hazard, Danielle R. Shemanski, Christian Meienberger, Ian R. Wallis, Devesh B. Vyas, Brian T. Henen, Philip A. Medica; Service Awards: David Carr, Molly E. Peters, Par Singhaseni; Special Award: Allan Muth; Pat von Helf Award: Mary Cohen.

**5. Nominations Committee Report:** Four Board positions are expiring, including Pete Woodman, Glenn Stewart, Kristin Berry, and Maggie Fusari, as Board Members At Large. We need a nomination for Chair-elect (Michael Tuma has expressed an interest), and also need to elect the Membership Coordinator and Recording Secretary. Elections will occur at the January Board meeting, followed by votes on nominated individuals at the Annual Business Meeting.

## **6. Ecosystems Advisory Committee Report:**

**a. Miscellaneous Comment Letters and Actions:** Actions and comment letters since the last Board meeting are given in the attachment to these minutes. These included cosigning several letters by other environmental groups, providing scoping comments on the Coolwater-Lugo Transmission Project, etc.

**b. Best Management Practices for Ranching in the Sonoran Desert:** Bruce Palmer drafted this letter, which was reviewed, and sent on 11/1/2014.

**c. Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan:** The Draft EIR/EIS, an 8,000-9,000 page document was released in late September, and with a recent extension, comments are due by 2/23/2015. Ed LaRue recently provided a list of concerns associated with the Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative, and yesterday, provided an Overview and Guide of the plan components, and a working session ensued to determine how we may best review and comment on this document. Ed will use Ken MacDonald's document to coordinate comments and concerns. **Ed LaRue will develop the master comment table, which tracks members' comments.**

**d. Las Vegas Resource Management Plan:** Ed LaRue has been playing phone tag with Daniel Patterson of the Center for Biological Diversity, and plans to speak with him soon. There are three cattle allotments that are in tortoise habitat. Bruce Palmer will continue to work on this, Ken MacDonald has been to several public meetings, and Scott Abella has been looking at some of this. We should focus on specific sections that most affect tortoises. But there is no firm lead on who may review and comment on this. Best approach is to use the Preferred Alternative as a baseline, and identify unacceptable measures there and suggest measures in other alternatives to be added. Also need to see how this does or does not support the Recovery Plan or compromise ACECs, for example.

**e. Endorsement Letter for Raul Grijalva:** This came in as a request from Center for Biological Diversity to cosign a letter supporting Mr. Grijalva as ranking member of House Committee on Natural Resources. After much discussion about nonprofits endorsing political candidates, Maggie Fusari determined that there is no jeopardy for the Council to sign on (151 groups have signed on). There was a discussion about the Board endorsing a political candidate. This endorsement is more advocacy than scientific input, but is for an individual rather than a policy. We need to develop a policy that will guide future decisions to endorse/or not individuals. **Motion made (Maggie Fusari), seconded (Ed LaRue), and failed with 3 yes votes, 10 no votes, and 1 abstention to cosign the letter endorsing this candidate.** Ed LaRue will inform Lori Ann Burd that individuals may support the candidate but not the Council, mostly due to the lack of a policy.

**f. Harper Lake Road fencing issue:** Jun Lee indicated that the road had not been fenced. Ed LaRue had identified the breaches in May 2014, but had not been repaired since then. **Kristin Berry will ask Jun Lee what the current status is.**

**g. Discussion:** How do we keep up with the growing number of projects? How do we effectively communicate with one another? Should we pay someone to review projects? What would be the function of such a reviewer? We could have them do specific actions, like review and compare portions of a document, then report back. Reviewers should not speak for the Council, but provide feedback to us that will save us time and allow us to focus on our comment letters. Our communications with environmental groups are also very helpful. Can also send email out to membership and in newsletter asking them for any input or support. If we identify certain controversial sections or proposals, it may help focus review and comment.

**7. Grants Committee Report:** On 11/14/2014 via email, Glenn Stewart provided a list of four existing grant priorities and three others to be considered by the Board. His recent email indicated grants have been given to Dr. Barry Sinervo and his team - \$2,741 for Tortoise Thermoregulatory Behavior in Mexico; Dr. Jeff Lovich - \$2,403 for Elizabeth Lake Pond Turtles; Sierra Club - \$3,000 for the first of four more years for *Desert Report* publication; and Dr. Scott Abella - \$8,000 for Tortoise Habitat Restoration Best Management Practices. That makes a total of \$16,144 that has been committed for the immediate future, though Glenn understood only \$5,144 for the first two have been paid out. **Glenn Stewart will contact Craig Deutsche with the Sierra Club Desert Committee about the status of this grant request.**

Agreed we should remove both the sterilization techniques and analysis of range-wide population data from the four grant priorities on the current list. Some recommended that we look at efficacy of habitat restoration, research on connectivity, minimizing impacts of subsidized predators, effectiveness of fencing, removal of grazing, etc. **Board members are asked to provide specific examples of the three general proposals to assess efficacy of implementing recovery actions, best management practices, and implementing conservation measures.**

## **8. Information, Outreach, and Social Media Committee Report:**

**a. Social media strategy and planning:** There will be more to come with regards to establishing social media programs including Facebook, Twitter, etc. some of which can be done in time for the Symposium in February 2015. We should develop a list of general questions and provide the Council's answers to those questions that can be used in various media formats. **Chris Noddings and Mari Quillman will reconnect with Bianca Cirimele, and perhaps offer a webinar to involve others.** • **Michael Tuma will work with Chris Noddings, the current chair, and Mary Cohen to reassess information on the website and make necessary changes.**

**b. Providence Mountains State Recreation Area request:** Will be reopening Friday through Sundays, and asked if we want to come and talk to the visitors. One suggestion is that we ask State Parks to solicit a grant that could pay for someone to be there once a week to provide interpretation information relative to tortoises. **Becky Jones will make the offer and follow up for more information.**

**9. Newsletter Editor's Report:** Latest volume sent out in September. There have been no responses to solicitation for sponsors. Michael Tuma is in touch with an award-winning photographer that will allow us to depict her photographs in future newsletters. **Michael Tuma will solicit input from membership asking for their concerns with the DRECP.** Glenn Stewart and Kristin Berry will be featured in the next newsletter to coincide with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Symposium. Michael is still looking for stories, which may come from agency personnel, Board members, general membership, and others. The next newsletter will be late December or early January.

**10. Web Master's Report:** Covered under other agenda items.

## **11. Workshop Committee Discussion:**

**a. Summary of 29<sup>th</sup> Workshop:** Two sessions were held in Ridgecrest, CA between 1 and 4 November 2014, with 63 attending the first session and 81 in the second session. All feedback was very positive. Test is posted and available until late December. We should buy a portable microphone as the stationary one was very limiting. We should postpone the Workshop to 7-10 November 2015 to avoid Halloween and Veterans Day, as several instructors requested. New chums have already been ordered for 2015 Symposium and Workshop. One student who works for the Marines indicated internal problem with the word, "Workshop."

**b. Development of Other Workshops:** Bruce Palmer and Kristin Berry will work together after the Symposium to continue planning. • Kristin Berry and Pete Woodman are meeting during Thanksgiving week to discuss the advanced techniques workshop. • Ken MacDonald and Cristina Jones are meeting to discuss health techniques workshops with USFWS, Clark County, and Arizona Game and Fish Department on 17 December 2014. In a quick assessment, Ken estimated it would require a budget of as much as \$50,000 to hire trained personnel and put on this workshop, which isn't too bad if each student was paying \$1,800 (depending on how many students).

## 12. Symposium Discussions:

### a. Local Host Committee:

1. Registration fees and process: This was just put on the webpage, with a discount for early registration, which is the same date the motel has for rooms. There are six people committed to assist with registration, and we'll need to have Joe Probst at the table. We need a small stool to accommodate some smaller people; and ask Sam's Town about a wheelchair ramp for the stage. **Motion made (Joe Probst), seconded (Ken MacDonald), and approved for Joe to spend up to \$150 for hardware that will allow him to take credit card payment.**

2. Facilities/meals/schedule: A deposit will be given to Sam's Town in January for the food, at which time the menu will need to be considered.

3. Equipment/audio visual: Ken MacDonald will ask what Sam's Town has to offer and then fill in the gaps. Maggie Fusari will assemble the list of audio-visual needs. David Carr and an assistant will oversee projection equipment.

4. Field trips: Pete Woodman will contact local people about a trip to Trout Canyon to view a translocation site. This will be the Thursday before the Symposium.

5. Photo contest: Joe Probst will conduct the photo contest and have Mary Cohen announce it on the website. Kristin Berry will provide Mary with an overview of how to submit photos.

6. Vendors: Chris Noddings is overseeing vendor involvement and will provide an advertisement for the website inviting vendors. Most vendors don't commit until after the first of the year. Ask that Jason Jones help us find local vendors. We should also invite Tortoise Group to attend, and have other tortoise groups attend with their exhibits.

7. Raffle/auction/silent auction: Mari Quillman and Maggie Fusari are overseeing this, including several large auction items plus a silent auction, which is a new aspect. Joe Probst will help auction items after the banquet. Mari's contact has offered to provide the condominium again, as in previous years, which should be done earlier in the night. As Corresponding Secretary, Becky Jones will be the point person for receiving donations and money for sponsorships. Forms will be provided if individuals need receipts for charitable donations. **Mari Quillman will send a note to Mary Cohen for the website describing how contributions can be acknowledged.**

8. Fliers/announcements: **Mari Quillman will send announcements to various groups, universities, clubs, etc. to stimulate interest and get more involvement.**

9. Miscellaneous: A biological consulting firm has agreed to host a mixer on Thursday night after the envelop-stuffing exercise for Board and general membership.

**b. Program Committee:** There will be a welcome address by Bruce Palmer, as the current Chair. Kristin Berry has asked Chris Noddings, as a new Board member, to help Al Muth moderate and keep the presentations on time. Glenn Stewart and Bruce Palmer will also be used as needed.

1. Major session topics and speakers: There will be a session on conservation by different groups. The sessions currently cover 18.5 hours of presentations. We can go later most days because the banquet is in a different room. Review of 15 years of research in Mexico, chaired by Mercy Vaughn, with contributions by Pete Woodman. There is a 3.5-hour session on Saturday morning, with Larry LaPre asking to present. Cristina Jones is overseeing a session on Arizona Research, which will include Taylor Edwards' presentation, and nine total presentations, not counting posters. Michael Tuma is overseeing a session on headstarting and translocation, including work at Edwards Air Force Base, Fort Irwin, and Mojave National Preserve. There is also a session on coyote predation relative to the Fort Irwin expansion, and an entire session on ravens. Scott Abella is overseeing session on habitat recovery and restoration, which will include his and Kristin's report on restoration BMPs. Becky Jones is chairing the agency session, perhaps with emphasis on their accomplishments towards recovery. Ken Nagy will likely present on nutrition research. **Kristin Berry will ask different tortoise groups to set up posters that document their respective histories.** We will have David Rostal sign "Conservation of North American Tortoises."

**c. Special anniversary events/materials:**

1. Highlighting Council's accomplishments (timeline): Ed LaRue has provided a timeline and asked that members provide feedback to complete the document, particularly 2005 through 2009. This timeline can be used in the conservation organization group, in a poster, and referenced in Bruce Palmer's address. Scott Abella and others suggested that Kristin Berry and Glenn Stewart prepare a talk on this subject.

2. Logo and "Swag:" Michael Tuma provided several logo versions. Rather than two colors, a single darker color will be used for "Desert Tortoise Council." Need to change "Since 1976" to 1975. Size is not an issue, and can be applied to both small and larger items. There is also a version without the "40<sup>th</sup>" so the logo may be used throughout. **Ed LaRue will work with Michael Tuma to produce mugs like those produced by Copper Mountain College, and Kristin Berry will check with Laura Stockton about cost to produce flash drives.** Need to be careful that we don't buy too many items with "40<sup>th</sup>" depicted on the item. **Motion made (Ken MacDonald), seconded (Kristin Berry), and unanimously approved to make these our official logo, with the few changes given above.** • **Michael Tuma will send the new logo, with revisions, to all affected interests, including Mary Cohen for the website; and will take the lead, with help from Bruce Palmer and Jason Jones, on producing the items.** After we determine costs, we will determine a budget and approve it via email.

3. Reach out to past Board members: Can have all past Board members be recognized by standing up at some point or given special name tags. **Mari Quillman will provide Ed LaRue with the list of past Board members in an effort to reach out to longtime members who are no longer active.**

**F. Discussions of Old and New Business:**

**1. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws**: Chris Noddings and Bruce Palmer worked together to differentiate goals and missions; recommending that "goal" be replaced with "mission" in the Bylaws. **Kristin Berry made the motion to adopt these Bylaws changes, seconded by Joe Probst, and unanimously approved to make the changes Bruce Palmer recently distributed.** They were generally to establish as a standing committee the "Information, Outreach, and Social Media Committee," adjust the duties of Corresponding Secretary, and substitute "mission" for "goal." These proposed changes will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

**2. Policy Statements/Issues/BMPs:** Bruce Palmer exhorted the Board to have all BMPS completed by the end of 2015. Need to have a clear question, and then develop a format/outline so that these are recognizable as Council products. The BMPs include (a) Closure of the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center; (b) Sterilization of pet tortoises; (c) Habitat Restoration BMPs (thanks to Scott Abella and Kristin Berry, we are now contracted to have this available by February 2015); (d) Habitat Connectivity BMPs; (e) Translocation BMPs; (1). Translocation of tortoises within the wild; (2) Removing fences at the long-term translocation site; (3) Release of captive tortoises to the wild (this is a separate issue from the general disease BMPs in the next point; the question is how do we say release of captives should not be done?) (f) Disease BMPs; (g) Terms and Conditions BMPs, which Pete Woodman hopes to be completed before next spring; and (h) Predator Management. Some of these may be combined; e.g., disease may include translocation, and others may be combined under maintenance of genetic integrity. We would like to have all drafts done by about June 2015. Bruce Palmer asked that Kristin Berry, Scott Abella, and Michael Tuma consider terms of how the above may be reorganized.

**3. Review and Implementation of strategic planning retreat:** Bruce Palmer put together a quick “straw dog” Five-Year Strategic Plan, and would like feedback from all Board members. **Mari Quillman and Cristina Jones will help Bruce Palmer develop the strategic plan, so that it is available for distribution by time of the 2015 Symposium.** We expect to receive the finalized version of minutes from our retreat by the end of next week. **Michael Tuma will recirculate the vision statement that he drafted following the retreat.** Later versions should have a feedback mechanism to determine measures of success.

#### **4. Policy/Operations Manual:**

**a. Symposium handbook:** We still need to get latest version from Tracy Bailey, or use the earlier version that Bruce Palmer has.

#### **5. Miscellaneous Items:**

**a. Update on pond turtle project:** Almost 300 dead southern western pond turtles and 70 sliders were found following the fire. Jeff Lovich completed trapping of live animals, although much of the pond dried up. Captured 120 or so live turtles for the mark-recapture study, and found more dead ones due to pond desiccation. A total of 33 were sent to a conservation center that could not receive more animals. Another 28 were rescued last week and deposited at UCLA.

**b. MOG Meeting on 18 November 2014:** Several of our members will attend this meeting next Tuesday in Las Vegas, Nevada, which will be attended by Ken MacDonald.

**G. Next Meeting:** The next business meeting of the Board will be at Sam’s Town, Las Vegas between 09:30 a.m. and approximately 4:00 p.m., on 10 January 2015.

**H. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson, Bruce Palmer, at 1630.

Draft minutes were recorded, later distributed and modified with board member review and input, then respectfully submitted as this final version by Ed LaRue, Recording Secretary.



Edward L. LaRue, Jr.  
Desert Tortoise Council, Recording Secretary

## **Ecosystems Advisory Committee Report DTC Board Meeting of 15 November 2014**

Note: The table attached to this report on the last page follows the **bold red** numbered outline given below.

### **1. Harper Lake Road Fence**

**8/24/2014** – Kristin Berry circulates an email transmission from Jun Lee, representing the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, indicating that as of 8/10/2014, there are still many gaps and unrepaired damage to this fence. Ed LaRue redistributed his letter report documenting the damage in May 2014 to Kristin Berry, Jun Lee, Michael Tuma, Bruce Palmer, and Tom Egan to see if this is new or existing, unrepaired damage. Tom Egan responded immediately that he will try to help. On **8/23/2014** there was a Board action for Michael Tuma to contact Milo Rivera at the county.

### **2. DRECP**

**8/24/2014** – As per direction from the Board at the 8/23/2014 meeting, LaRue sends an email to Jeff Aardahl (Defenders of Wildlife) and Ilene Anderson (Center for Biological Diversity) initiating communication to see how the Council may coordinate DRECP comments with these groups. Ed LaRue and Glenn Stewart receive an invitation on **9/19/2014** to be involved in a radio interview on **9/22/2014** at 14:00. Glenn prepares a statement that Ed amends for the interview. On **9/23/2014** Ed forwards the official notice that the draft EIR for the DRECP is now available for public comments, which are due on **1/9/2015**. Ed LaRue sends out coordination email to Board, Defenders of Wildlife, Center for Biological Diversity, DTPC, and Mary Cohen on **9/28/2014**. On **10/5/2014** Ed sends list of upcoming public meetings in October and November. On **10/9/2014**, forward two emails from Jeff Aardahl that DRECP preferred alternative would delete ACEC status for DTRNA.

On **10/26/2014**, Ed sends out “Installment #1,” identifying concerns with the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

### **3. Coolwater-Lugo Transmission Line Notice to Prepare Environmental Documents**

**8/28/2014** – Jeff Aardahl sends Ed LaRue a series of documents regarding scoping of this project, which we commented on as “Southern California Edison’s South of Kramer Transmission Project” in 2012. We were not directly informed of public comment periods last week and the deadline for these comments in 9/2/2014. Ed distributes the materials to the Board on 8/28/2014 within hours of receiving them. Ed distributes the draft comment letter to the Board on the evening of **8/29/2014**. After receiving five endorsements, letter is sent to recipients. On 9/9/2014, Jeff Aardahl with Defenders of Wildlife indicates there is a new public meeting on **9/16/2014**, but Ed unable to attend due to field work (already provided input).

### **4. DRECP Letter opposing Silurian Valley Solar and relocating Soda Mountains Solar**

**9/5/2014** – Ed LaRue receives a request from Seth Shteir asking us to endorse a letter opposing the Silurian Valley Solar project and asking that Soda Mountains Solar be relocated. Ed immediately sends this request to other Board members asking for their endorsement or opposition to signing the letter. **9/8/2014**, after receiving 10 endorsements to cosign this letter, Ed sends a confirmation email to Seth. On **10/7/2014**, Ed receives the final version of the letter, which he distributes to the Board.

### **5. DRECP Public Meeting in Riverside on 9/17/2014**

**9/9/2014** – Ed LaRue receives an email from the DRECP organizers that there is to be a final public meeting on the DRECP in Riverside on the evening of 9/17/2014. Since Ed cannot attend this meeting due to work restraints, he forwards the email to all Board members, suggesting that a more local person attend to keep abreast of the draft report, which is due out any day. **9/17/2014** Chris Noddings listens to about half of the webinar and sends rough notes to all board members later that day.



**6. Desert Tortoise Conservation Center Closure**

**9/16/2014** – Chris Noddings asks about the status of this issue. Various responses are made as indicated in the table.

**7. Endorsement of Center for Biological Diversity letter regarding critical habitat changes**

**9/19/2014** – Becky Jones received a letter from Tracy Bailey on 9/18/2014 from the Center for Biological Diversity written by Lori Ann Burd regarding a proposal by USFWS to revise how adverse modification of critical habitat would be assessed. On **9/22/2014**, Ed LaRue circulates the letter and request to the Board, and asks Ms. Burd to provide the specific proposal so we can independently review it and endorse (or not) the letter by 10/6/2014. On **9/23/2014** Ed forwards the official link to the proposed rule. With only three endorsements, on **9/28/2014** Ed sends an email seeking additional input from the Board. With one recusal and eight yes votes, Ed sends notice to include the Council in the letter. Formal letter forwarded to Board members on **10/9/2014**.

**8. Alliance for Desert Preservation concerning National Conservation Land status for Juniper Flats**

**10/3/2014** – After speaking to Steve Mills on 10/1/2014, Ed LaRue receive a letter from Alliance for Desert Preservation asking us to endorse their letter requesting that all of Juniper Flats be designated as NCL. Ed makes a few edits and returns the letter on 10/3/2014. As of the distribution of these draft notes (11/9/2014) in anticipation of the upcoming Board meeting, Mr. Mills had not gotten back with changes, so no action at this time.

**9. CBD petition to federally list the monarch butterfly**

**10/8/2014** – Ed LaRue receives a request from Center for Biological Diversity to sign their letter petitioning USFWS to list the monarch butterfly. Ed circulates this request to the Board later that day. After 12 Board members respond we should not support the petition, I inform Ms. Walker of this decision and asked how individuals may endorse her petition. Ed informs Ms. Walker on **10/9/2014** that the Council cannot endorse this petition, as it is outside our scope and mission statement.

**10. Las Vegas/Pahrump Resource Management Plan**

**10/14/2014** – Ed LaRue receives notice of availability of a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Las Vegas/Pahrump BLM offices. Comments are due by 7 January 2015. This notice was circulated on 10/14/2014 to the Board asking for review from Nevada Board members. Scott Abella begins to take lead on this.

**11. Best Management Practices for Ranching in Sonoran Desert Tortoise Habitat in Arizona**

**9/7/2014** – Bruce Palmer sends a notice to the Board inviting the Council to comment on these ranching BMPs. On **10/29/2014** Bruce Palmer sends his draft letter to Ed LaRue commenting on the proposed BMPs for ranching in Arizona. Ed makes minor revisions and circulates the letter to the Board asking for immediate input, as the letter is due by November 1<sup>st</sup>. After receiving eight endorsements of Bruce's letter, it is sent via email on the evening of November 1 (from Ridgecrest and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Workshop).

**12. Letter to Senator Feinstein opposing Silurian Valley Solar and relocating Soda Mountains Solar**

**11/7/2014** – Seth Shteir sends the same letter as given in #4 above, intending to send it to Senator Feinstein. Later that day, Glenn Stewart points out that nothing is said about tortoise occurrence at the Soda Mountain site. Although he and six others endorse the letter as is, Ed added a paragraph and distributed it to the Board on 11/7/2014. Letter sent o Shteir on **11/9/2014**.

**13. Letter Endorsing Representative Raul Grijalva to House Committee on Natural Resources**

**11/12/2014** – On 11/12/2014 Ed LaRue received letter from Lori Ann Burd of Center for Biological Diversity asking the Council to cosign a letter endorsing Raul Grijalva as the next ranking member of the House Committee on Natural Resources. Since Maggie Fusari is more familiar with Representative Grijalva, Ed asks her to take the lead on this request, which is due on 11/17/2014. Following discussion at the Board meeting on 11/15/2014, a vote was called with 3 endorsements, 10 no votes, and 1 abstention.

**Ecosystems Advisory Committee  
Summary Table from 8/24/2014 to 11/15/2014**

**Current date for this latest table revision is: 11/12/2014**

No.	Reference	Dates (2014)				Board Member Responses														
		Rec'd	Dist.	Due	Sent	BJ	BP	CJ	CN	EL	GS	JJ	JP	KB	KM	MF	MQ	MT	PW	SA
1	Harper Lake Road Fence	8/24	N/A	N/A	N/A					PI 8/24				PI 8/24						
2	DRECP	N/A	N/A	1/9/15	N/A					PI 9/22 9/28 10/26	PI 9/22 9/24				PI 9/24	PI 9/24				PI 10/6
3	Coolwater-Lugo Transmission Scoping	8/28	8/28 & 8/29	9/2	9/1		Y 8/31	Y 9/1	Y 9/2	A/Y 8/29	NA 8/29		Y 8/30	Y 8/31					Y 9/1	Y 8/30
4	DRECP Letter on Silurian and Soda Solar	9/5	9/5	N/A	9/8	R 9/8	Y 9/6	Y 9/8	Y 9/8	Y 9/5	Y 9/6		Y 9/6	R 9/5	Y 9/6	Y 9/5	Y 9/8	Y 9/6	R 9/6	
5	DRECP Public meeting	9/9	9/9	N/A	N/A				PI 9/17											
6	DTTC Closure	9/16	9/16	N/A	N/A		PI 9/22		PI 9/16 9/19	PI 9/19				PI 9/19	PI 9/6	PI 9/20		PI 9/19		
7	CBD letter on critical habitat policy	9/19	9/22	10/6	9/30		Y 9/29			PI/Y 9/22	Y 9/23		Y 9/29	R 9/28	Y 9/28	Y 9/24	Y 9/29		Y 9/28	
8	Juniper Flats NCL Letter Endorsement	10/3		N/A						PI 10/3										
9	CBD petition to list monarch butterfly	10/8	10/8	N/A	10/9	N 10/9	N 10/9	N 10/9		PI/N 10/8	N 10/8	N 10/8	N 10/9	N 10/9	N 10/9	Y 10/8	N 10/9	N 10/8	N 10/8	N 10/9
10	Las Vegas/Pahrump RMP	10/14	10/14	1/7																PI 10/14 10/15
11	BMPs for ranching in Arizona	9/7 10/29	10/29	11/1	11/1	Y 10/30	A/Y 10/29			Y 10/29			Y 10/30	PI 10/30	Y 10/30	Y 10/31	Y 10/30		PI/Y 10/29	
12	Feinstein Letter on Silurian and Soda Solar	11/7	11/7	11/12	11/9	R 11/10			Y 11/10	PI/Y 11/7	PI/Y 11/7		Y 11/10	R 11/10	Y 11/7	Y 11/7	Y 11/7	Y 11/7	Y 11/7	R 11/9
13	Letter Endorsing Raul Grijalva	11/12	11/12	11/17	11/16	N 11/15	R 11/15	N 11/15	Y 11/15	Y 11/15	N 11/15	Not here	N 11/15	N 11/15	N 11/15	A/Y 11/15	N 11/15	N 11/15	N 11/15	N 11/15

**BJ** = Becky Jones, **BP** = Bruce Palmer, **CJ** = Cristina Jones, **CN** = Chris Noddings, **EL** = Ed LaRue, **GS** = Glenn Stewart, **JJ** = Jason Jones, **JP** = Joe Probst, **KB** = Kristin Berry, **KM** = Ken MacDonald, **MF** = Maggie Fusari, **MQ** = Mari Quillman, **MT** = Michael Tuma, **PW** = Pete Woodman, **SA** = Scott Abella (\*this is more of an abstention than a recusal).