

# Heart of the Continent Partnership General Meeting Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Notes

## Attendees:

Bruce Anderson, Superior National Forest\*; Tim Cochrane, Grand Portage National Monument; Kimberly Byrd, Voyageurs National Park Association; Linda Braun, Ontario Ministry Of Northern Development, Mines And Forestry\*; Carmen Converse, Minnesota DNR; Paul Danicic, Friends Of The Boundary Waters Wilderness; Betsy Daub, Friends Of The Boundary Waters Wilderness; Trudy Fagre, USFS R9 Urban Connections; Doug Franchot, Voyageurs National Park Association; Lee Frelich, University Of Minnesota; Kristina Geiger, Friends Of The Boundary Waters Wilderness; Bret Hesla, Heart Of The Continent Partnership; Michael Jiminez, Superior National Forest; Rich Kelley, Quetico Foundation; Rob Kesselring, MCA; Greg Lais, Wilderness Inquiry; Cory Macnulty, Voyageurs National Park Association; Brian McLaren, Lakehead University; Kevin Proeschold, Isaac Walton League; Mike Prouty, Great Lakes Forest Alliance; Lisa Radosevich-Craig, Superior National Forest; Robin Reilly, Quetico Provincial Park; Sharon Stevens, Sierra Club; Lisa Sorenson, Quetico Provincial Park\*; Sue Spencer\*; Kris Reichenbach, Superior National Forest\*; Beth Waterhouse, Oberholzer Foundation; Dyke Williams, Quetico Superior Foundation; David Wiggins, National Park Service  
*\*Participated by phone*

## 1. Annual Dues for Organizations and Individuals

The group approved the steering committee's recommendation that organizations and individuals be asked to submit annual dues, on a sliding scale. The funds would be used to help cover HOCP's general operating expenses, including various meeting costs, coordinator hours, and printing. Three dues levels were established: Sustaining partner (\$500-\$1000 per year), Associate Partner (\$100-\$499 per year) and Participating Partner (\$10-\$99 per year). Partners select their own level of annual dues. The steering committee made clear that the level of dues paid will have no bearing on the influence partners have in HOCP efforts. Doug Franchot will send a letter to all partners, announcing and explaining the new dues program shortly.

## 1. Science Collaboration

In preparation for today's meeting, on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, there was a phone meeting of HOCP partners interested science issues, which resulted in various organizations submitting a summary of their ongoing science efforts, as well as types of research they can envision which would have good potential for collaboration going forward. Those submitting responses were Lakehead University, Quetico Provincial Park, Superior national Forest, Grand Portage national Monument, Voyageurs National Park & The Nature Conservancy. Brian McLaren collated those documents, and prepared a summary page, which was circulated at today's meeting (see attached).

Discussion at today's meeting followed about how to collaborate, barriers, and needs:

- Distribute the details behind this summary document--summarizing each org's research and collaboration interests (get into uniform format, and ask permission to do so)
- Need a mechanism to help scientists get permission to replicate their work in other areas around the region
- Takes time to build relationships with key people
- Lets get together and create a collective Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), pledging to do transborder collaborative research, calling for the types of research needed. Separate orgs could use this MOU as leverage to get things going.
- We also need money to collaborate—money makes things happen
- HOCP could offer a suite of research support services, to help scientists navigate through these various barriers
- A science conference, perhaps every 2 years, would draw attention to the region as a global research opportunity.
- This science collaboration within HOCP would follow well on the heels of the World Wilderness congress resolution (11/2009) recognizing HOCP and inviting the group to collaborate on monitoring of climate change, etc.
- Next steps:
  - Set another phone meeting of HOCP science folks—formalize the HOCP science committee
  - Continue to add to the summary document (and get permission to share this info with partners)
  - Pursue creating an MOU
  - Pursue a gathering of scientists

## 2. Presentations from Partner Organizations

**Great Lakes Forest Alliance** ([www.greatforests.org](http://www.greatforests.org)) Director Mike Prouty gave overview and thoughts about how his group and HOCP might collaborate. GLFA works in MN, WI, MI and Ontario. Lots of parallel language and vision between this group and HOCP. GLFA might be able to help HOCP make contacts among timber interests as we build the Heart of the Continent's 2011 International Community Congress.

**Urban Connections (Superior National Forest):** Director Trudy Fagre summarized her group's work. There was lots of discussion on connecting youth with public lands, and the youth engagement work of Quetico Provincial Park, YMCA, Sierra Club, Wilderness Inquiry, Urban Wilderness Canoe Area.

Ideas included creating a central list of all the organizations doing youth in the outdoors efforts, all the organizations doing citizen science, etc.

**Wilderness Inquiry/Urban Wilderness Canoe Area.** Greg Lais and David Wiggins, respectively, talked about their work. Greg encouraged participation in the May 14<sup>th</sup> Community Paddle down the Mississippi.

### 3. Heart of the Continent Partnership's 2011 International Community Congress

**Overview:** At its February 2010 general meeting, the Heart of the Continent Partnership approved the steering committee's vision of hosting a *2011 International Community Congress*, at which local teams of community leaders and public lands managers will work together to design projects that benefit both the local economy and the public lands. A power point overview of this project at HOCP's website:  
<http://www.heartofthecontinent.org/2010/03/11/heart-of-the-continent-international-community-congress-2011/>

**Design Team:** The steering committee has almost finished recruiting a design team for the 2011 Congress. The design team will soon begin doing the work of putting together this event, including recruiting community teams, planning the event logistics, planning the event program itself, and fundraising. The design team will most likely contract with the US Fish and Wildlife facilitators to put on the event, who have many years experience in offering this type of workshop.

**Funding:** Several ideas for funding were brought forward.

**Program Content:** we want local experts to lead many pieces of the 2011 International Congress, not solely folks from outside the region

**Timeline constraints:** March 2011 is the tentative date for the HOCP International Community Congress. If it needs to be pushed back, the next most realistic month would be November 2011, since summer is too busy for most participants to attend.

**Consensus going forward:** The participants approved the steering committee's progress toward HOCP's 2011 International Community Congress, and affirmed the work of the steering committee as it recruits and soon launches the design team for that event.

### 4. Next Meetings

Please mark your calendars for the next two Heart of the Continent Partnership General Meetings:

July 29-30, 2010  
*Grand Portage, MN*

Sept. 24-25, 2010  
*Voyageurs National Park, MN*

Watch for details at [www.heartofthecontinent.org](http://www.heartofthecontinent.org)