

Reserve Design Working Group Meeting 19 September 2001

Members of the working group in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Dave Allen	NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Pete Campbell	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Jim Dougherty	NC Department of Commerce
Sam Pearsall	NC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
Scott Pohlman	NC Natural Heritage Program

Also attending were:

Mike Schafale	NC Natural Heritage Program
Noelle	Nicholas School of the Environment (Duke University)
Craig	Nicholas School of the Environment (Duke University)

The Reserve Design Working Group will also include: Phil Doerr, of the Sandhills Ecological Institute; Glenn Prillaman, of Fort Bragg; and members from the Regional Land Use Advisory Committee and the GIS/Data Management working group to be determined. These members will attend future meetings.

Issues discussed and resolved during the discussion:

1. Goal of the working group
- 2• Objectives (incremental) to reach the goal
- 3• Identification of existing data (that group has knowledge of) to be gathered
- 4• Meeting schedule
- 5• Coordinating person for the reserve design working group
- 6• Topics and Material for the 11/14 meeting

Reserve Design Working Group Goal

“Taking into account all existing land use plans, relevant data, and applicable land use tools and processes, develop (and over time revise) a conservation design for the North Carolina Sandhills physiographic region that would serve the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership mission.”

Objectives

The Reserve Design Working Group voted to accept the suggested objectives, listed below. All members of the group realize that the dynamic process of conservation planning will require us to revisit the objectives and ascertain if some modification is necessary.

Objectives:

1. Identify necessary information required to complete reserve design. Specify that is currently available and what information is lacking.
2. Evaluate rate of historic and current land use changes and relate to loss of natural communities/habitats.
3. Create a priority parcel list for conservation protection using input from TCW Strategy working group and all other available data.
4. Define list of milestones (accrued benefits of design at some identified set of thresholds)
5. Focus on feasibility of protecting critical resources on lands within the GAP in Hoke County (including economic considerations of Moore and Hoke counties).
6. Evaluate current County-based land use plans and potential for Regional Land Use Planning.

Data to be gathered

The Reserve Design Working Group identified a number of existing reports, projects and plans that should be reviewed by the group. Members of the group agreeing to gather information included Pete Campbell, who will distribute to all participant stakeholders the map of the project area (Sandhills physiographic region). Pete is also preparing distribution of MapView, the spatial data tool developed at NC State for the Sandhills, and is looking into acquisition of cadastral data layer. Jim Dougherty will be gathering land use plans for local and county governments in the Sandhills region. Scott Pohlman is following up on (land cover) change detection studies with Margaret Fields of TNC. Because TNC has maintained its interest in the Sandhills for a long time, the organization has helped to generate some potentially very useful products, including some work done by student interns. At the first meeting in Durham, Sam Pearsall will share copies of existing conservation reports for the Sandhills prepared by Duke students.

Meeting Schedule

The Reserve Design Working Group agreed to meet on a bimonthly basis. Dates for the first two meetings will be November 14, 2000 and January 9, 2001. Dates for the

March meeting will be determined at the November meeting, and it was proposed and accepted that the group keep scheduling two meetings in advance.

Coordinating person named

Scott Pohlman, of the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, is honored to be the coordinating person, (or Obi-Wan) for the Reserve Design working group.

Topics and materials for the first meeting

Two topics will be featured at the first meeting, to be held at The Nature Conservancy office in Durham. First, an introduction (from the Division of Community Assistance) to land use plans and a review of the existing land use plans and zoning maps for counties and municipalities of the Sandhills physiographic region. Questions to be considered include impacts of zoning on reserve design, and how the plans enhance or detract from protection efforts. Second, Duke University graduate students Noelle and Craig are preparing an evaluation of perceived benefits of “Green Space” in counties and local communities. The evaluation includes a compilation of methods to identify and preserve green space, economic considerations, and quality of life issues. A fact sheet and report are anticipated products. In advance of the meeting, Noelle and Craig will provide a draft for the group to review.