

Subject: [gbird] March Update

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GBIRd March Update

- Meetings and Structure
 - Still setting up institutional and focus area meetings. Some of you will have two meetings per month, some one.
 - It is time for a full GBIRd Team meeting
 - I will be focusing more on standard facilitation skills – sticking to time and agenda – out of respect for the people on calls.
 - I would like to further empower the focus area leads in the areas of strategy and milestones. We can discuss during monthly meetings and identify milestones that are not associated with funding or if/when funding occurs
 - I will start setting up monthly meetings and make a best shot at gathering the key people. With 14 focus area, seven organizations, I am wanting to reduce the reliance of Doodle Polls. This may be tricky, so work with me and please give feedback.
 - Listserv is still a bit clunky, but please use it! I encourage focus area leads to post updates occasionally.
- Regulatory
 - US-I have reached out to FDA to ensure FDA regulatory oversight in alignment with DARPA expectations in the SAFE GENES program. Thanks to NWRC for keeping this on the radar.
 - AU-I would like to designate a lead for AU regulatory engagement. Peter, let's have this as an agenda item for the next CSIRO meeting.
- Island Selection
 - This aspect is moving more quickly than expected. John and Karl have been actively engaged.
- Communications
 - 2 meetings done, one to go re: website development.
 - § Will also develop process for posting content to web to assure accuracy and quality (no typos/spelling) issues.
 - Nice Blog: Congrats Megan - <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/mice-as-conservationists/>
- Biosafety
 - Many questions about this topic at recent meetings (CBD, Innovations Summit, OSTP, etc.) and by journalists. Steering committee working on a document that outlines our process. This will be posted to the website.
- Funding
 - NCSU in active negotiations with DARPA with a ceiling of \$6.4M for the program. John leading effort.
 - Ongoing discussions with Gates Foundation. Heath leading effort.
 - Actively pursuing interface with Gene Drive Funders – meeting in DC end of March. Heath leading effort.
 - Actively pursuing audience with philanthropist at SAS. This foundation is mostly interested in data utilization in regards to conservation. Royden leading effort.
 - Considering USDA Biotechnology Risk Assessment Grant. NWRC was in lead, but recently reversed on ability to apply (\$500K over 4 years). Looking like this will not be applied for due to time required.
 - Taproot for gratis Consultant services – would use in marketing/branding. Heath Leading effort.
- Partnerships
 - Trinational aspects of partnership shared at white house conference center presentation and national

academy scoping meeting (IC, CSIRO, Landcare, USDA)

§ Action Item: address 'private allele' issue from slide 17 with Steering Committee (or NCSU team)

§ Both engagements were very well coordinated in terms of partnership focus.

- Ethics

- No funding in DARPA negotiations for ethics, as they will have their own ethics panel
- QUESTION FOR STEERING COMMITTEE: Do we still want to move forward with an independent, external, Ethics Advisory Committee.

- Stakeholder/Community Engagement

- DARPA funding stakeholder engagement activities in US
- Discussions ongoing regarding AU and NZ activities.

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www.islandconservation.org