



Keystone Monarch Collaborative Meeting

Fifty five people representing diverse organizations met on April 6-7, 2015 to discuss the need for more collaboration and public private partnership on monarch recovery and conservation efforts. Farm organizations, farmers, government agencies, monarch researchers, companies in the agricultural supply chain and conservation organizations were present to learn about current research and efforts for national monarch recovery and how to better partner to achieve recovery goals within the agricultural landscape.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Share information about existing efforts underway, including research and monitoring
- Identify areas for immediate engagement for those who are ready to undertake efforts now
- Explore whether a more comprehensive planning process is needed that would include:
 - o Public private partnerships at state and national levels
 - o Mapping and monitoring of existing populations and recovery efforts
 - o Identification of existing complementary efforts that could be used to assist with implementation and communication

On the first day the group heard the following presentations:

- Overview of Monarch biology and need for recovery and conservation efforts (Karen Oberhauser, University of Minnesota and Chip Taylor, Monarch Watch)
- Overview of federal agency and other collaborative efforts (Karen Oberhauser, Monarch Joint Venture, Michael Gage, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Donn Waage, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Laurie Adams, Pollinator Partnership, Sarina Jepsen, The Xerces Society)
- Need for agricultural community engagement and examples (Alex Echols, Sand County Foundation, Pete Berthelsen, Pheasants Forever, Steve Bradbury, Iowa State, Robb Fraley, Monsanto Company)

On the second day the group discussed what information is needed to further assist collaboration and public private partnerships, how to communicate with and engage farmers in monarch recovery, and the need for broader partnership and action.

Coming out of the meeting there were many actionable ideas of how to move forward with public private partnerships and leverage existing efforts to accelerate monarch recovery efforts. There was also recognition of the need to work with existing partnerships and have an agricultural strategy be part of a broader recovery and conservation efforts.

The meeting was convened and facilitated by Keystone Policy Center who will establish a smaller but representative steering committee that will be tasked with determining next steps, a stakeholder engagement plan, and representation and decision making going forward. Keystone Policy Center is a 501(c) headquartered in Keystone, CO with the mission of inspiring leaders to rise above entrenched positions to reach higher common ground (www.keystone.org).