

Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group

April 25, 2018



ERC
ENERGY RESOURCES CENTER



Mission



To engage diverse stakeholders in a collaborative environment that promotes pollinator habitats and healthy ecosystems along rights-of-way by providing expertise, cost-effective best management practices, and industry-driven tools and resources.



Working Group Snapshot

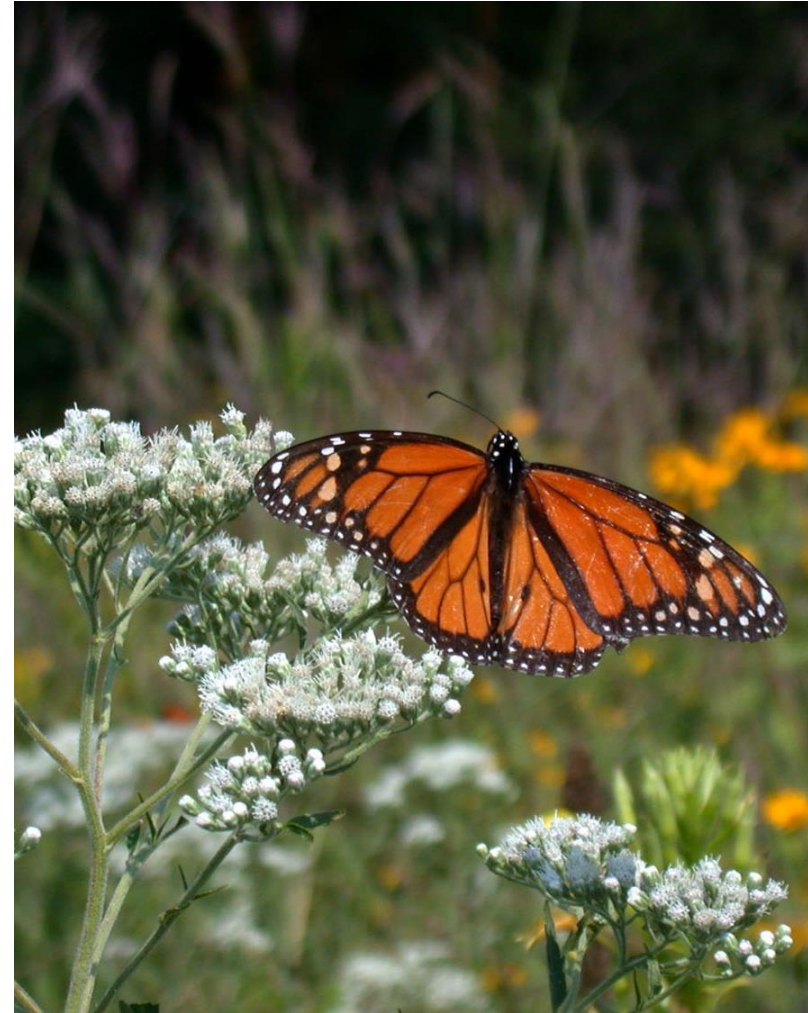
- Formed in 2015
- 200+ organizations
- Semi-annual working group meetings
- Technical webinars
- Cross-sector collaboration and knowledge-sharing
- Focused projects and task forces



MONARCH CCAA TASK FORCE

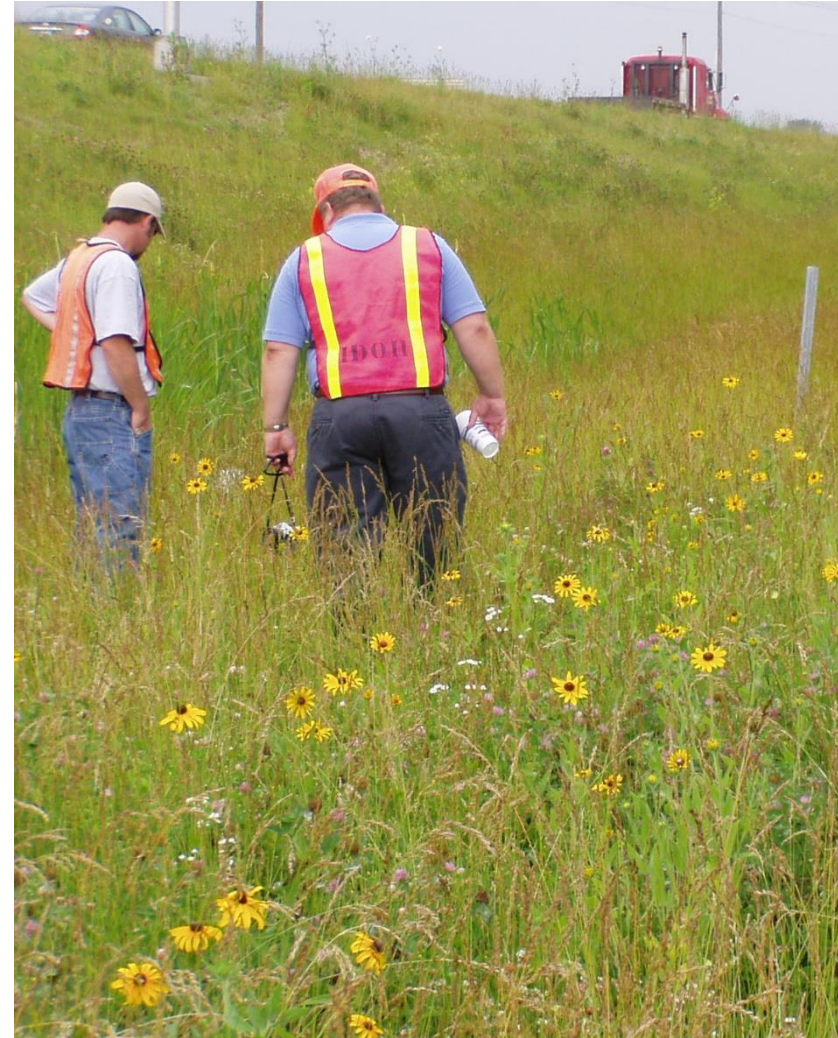
Last October

- > Introduced the idea of a CCAA to the Working Group
- > A Workshop Task Force met to discuss options and considerations for CCAA development
- > Together, the Task Force agreed to pursue development of a collaborative CCAA



Then and Now

- > Follow up since last October:
 - Timeline for CCAA creation
 - Organization and facilitation of a CCAA Development Partnership
 - Initiated coordination with USFWS
 - Prepared initial elements of a CCAA



What are CCAAs?

- > Voluntary agreements with non-Federal property owners designed to address concerns about providing conservation for a species that in the future may be listed
- > CCAA must provide **net conservation benefit** to covered species and address all *key* threats under property owners' control
- > FWS assures that no additional conservation measures or restrictions (beyond those described in the CCAA) will be required if the species becomes listed



[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service presentation, 26 October 2017]



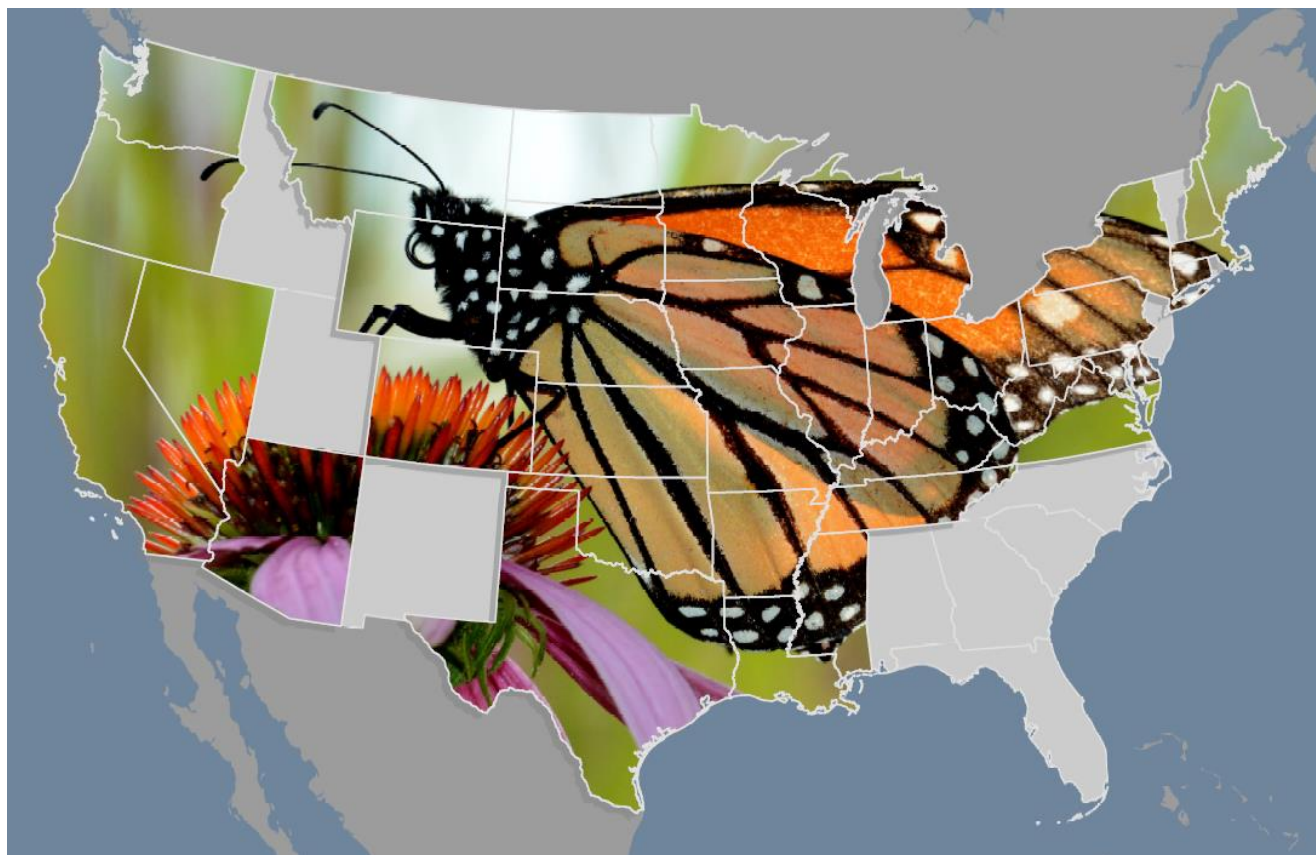
Why Pursue a CCAA?

- > Regulatory certainty
- > Flexible mechanism with broad application across industries
- > Documents industry contributions
- > Reduce impact to project schedules
- > Reduces redundancy of efforts/cost
- > Improves quality and streamlines CCAA process
- > Increases likelihood of greater industry participation/coverage
- > Partnership value by all parties (FWS, industry, etc.)



Extent of the CCAA Partnership

- > Multi-sector
- > National scale
- > Formally supported by 20+ partners
- > Interagency coordination

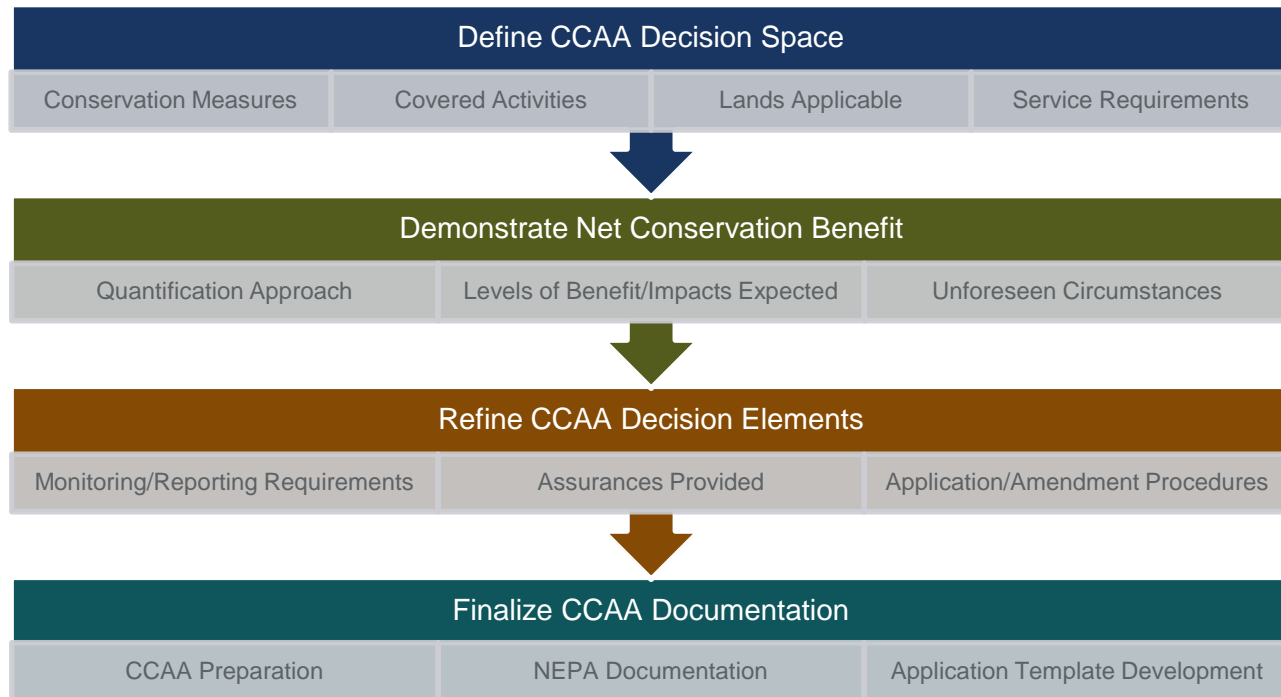


Thank you to our current CCAA Partners!

- > American Electric Power
- > American Transmission Company
- > Arizona DOT
- > Colorado DOT
- > Connexus Energy
- > Commonwealth Edison
- > Cypress Creek Renewables
- > Delaware DOT
- > Exelon Generation
- > Federal Highway Administration
- > Fresh Energy
- > Illinois DOT
- > Iowa DOT
- > IVM Partners
- > Minnesota DOT
- > National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- > NiSource
- > Ohio DOT
- > Pine Gate Renewables
- > TransCanada
- > We Energies



Process Anticipated for Developing the CCAA



CCAA Development Timeline

					Phase 1. Draft CCAA/EA Preparation												Phase 2. CCAA/EA Finalization												Phase 3. Application Period												
Task #	Task Name	Task Lead	Start	Finish	2018													2019												2020											
					Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul						
1	Call for Participation	ERC	12/18/2017	1/15/2018	<div></div>																																				
2	Impacts/Benefits Quantification	Task Force	2/1/2018	6/20/2018	<div></div>																																				
3	Draft CCAA and EA Preparation	Task Force	5/1/2018	11/16/2018																																					
4	Review and Preparation of Final CCAA and EA	USFWS, with Task Force	11/16/2018	3/29/2019													<div></div>																								
5	Publication of Final CCAA and EA	USFWS	4/1/2019	6/28/2019																									<div></div>												
6	Listing Decision (Anticipated) for Monarch	USFWS	6/3/2019	6/28/2019													Listing Decision Anticipated On/ Around June 2019 <div></div>																								
7	Partner Applications Under CCAA	Partners	7/1/2019	6/30/2020																									<div></div>												
8	Final Application Deadline / Effective Listing Date	USFWS	7/1/2020	7/31/2020																									Effective Listing Date Anticipated On/ Around July 2020 <div></div>												



Interested in being involved?

- > Funding partners
- > Advisory Team
- > Sector / Technical Teams

Contact Iris Caldwell, University of Illinois-Chicago

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GEOSPATIAL DATABASE

Geospatial Habitat Database

PURPOSE

The Rights-of-Way as Habitat Database serves as a **central repository** for tracking existing, restored, and potential habitat areas to further our understanding of the ecological benefits and opportunities of rights-of-way.

This database system aims to **facilitate conservation partnerships** within and across sectors, supports **engagement with resource agencies** to help avoid future listings under the Endangered Species Act, and works to **promote voluntary conservation actions** for at-risk or listed species.

How and Why?

As a data provider how do you envision your organization using the ROW Habitat Database?

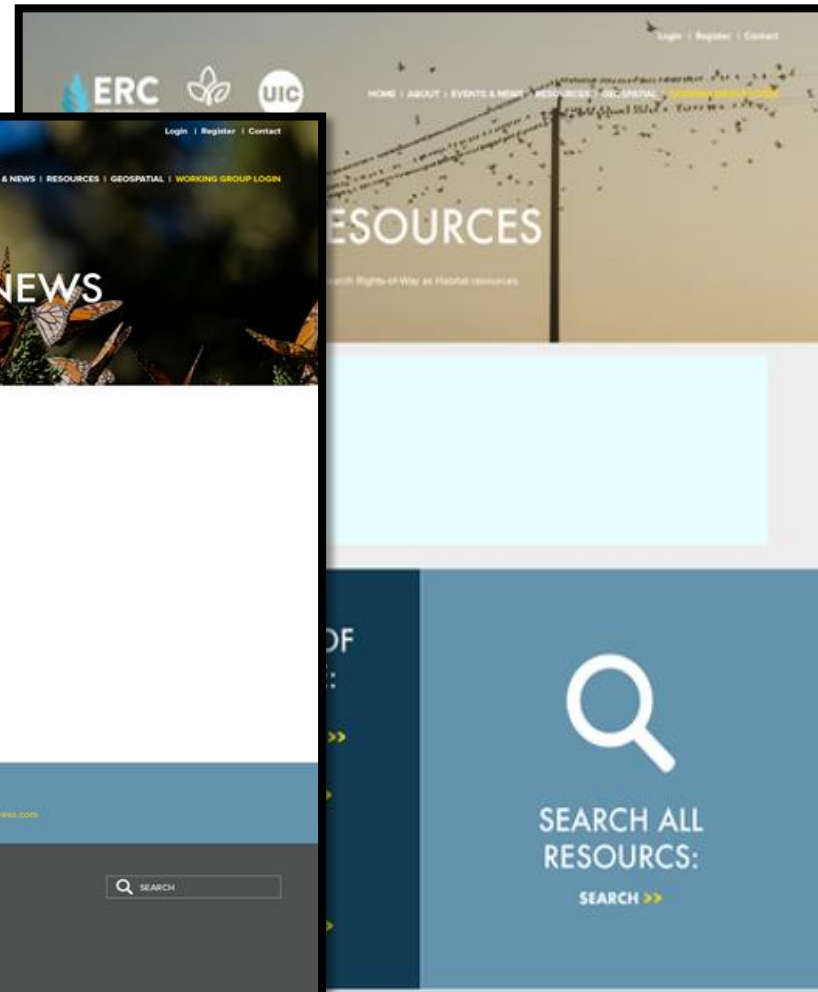
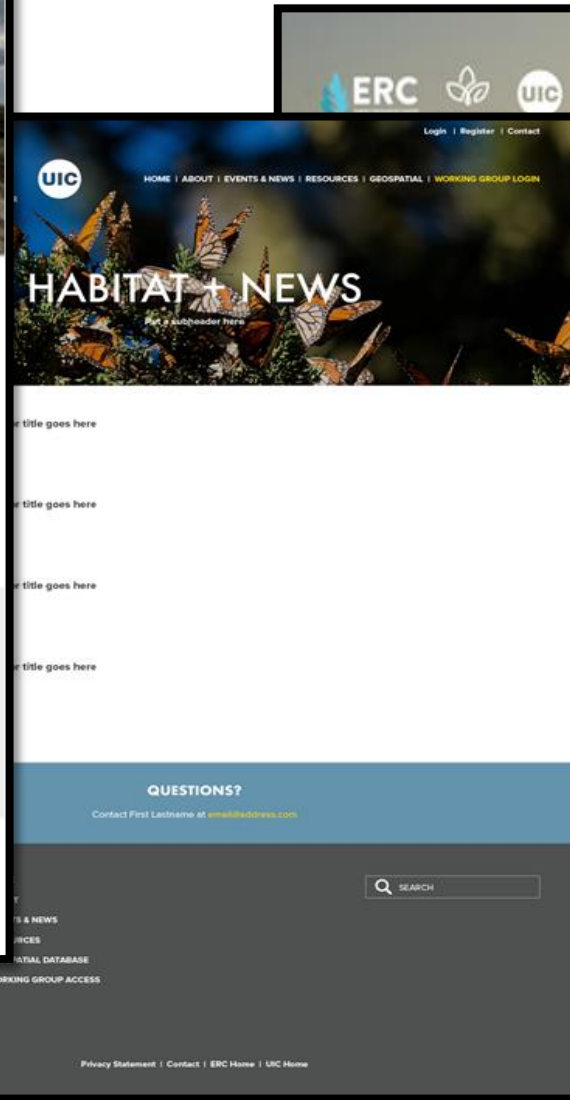


Next Steps

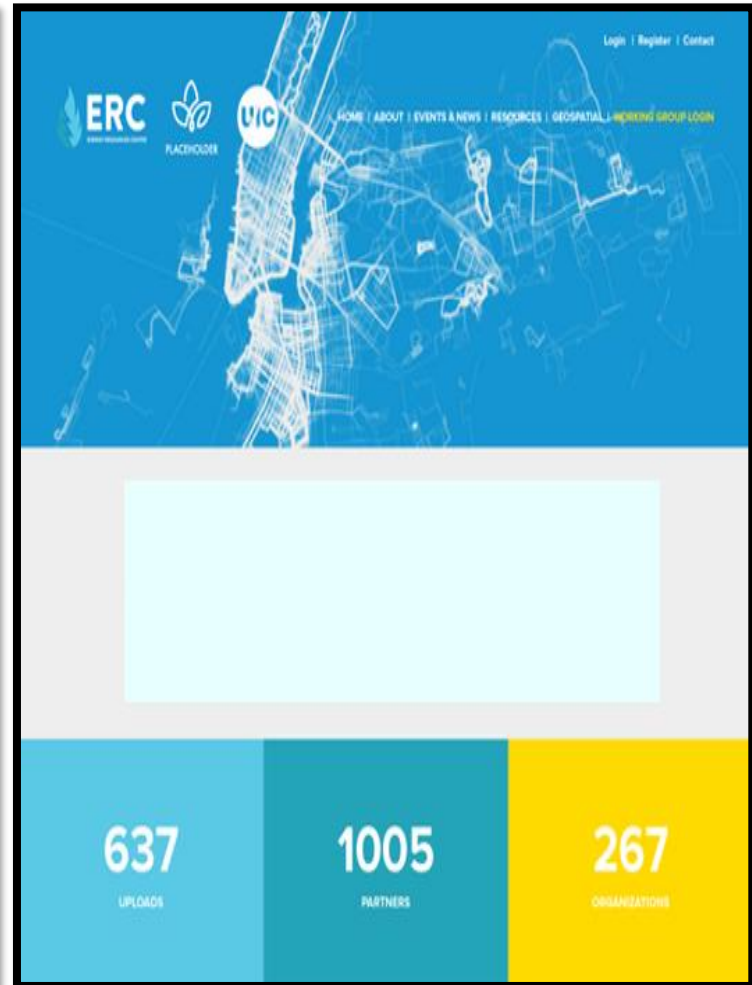
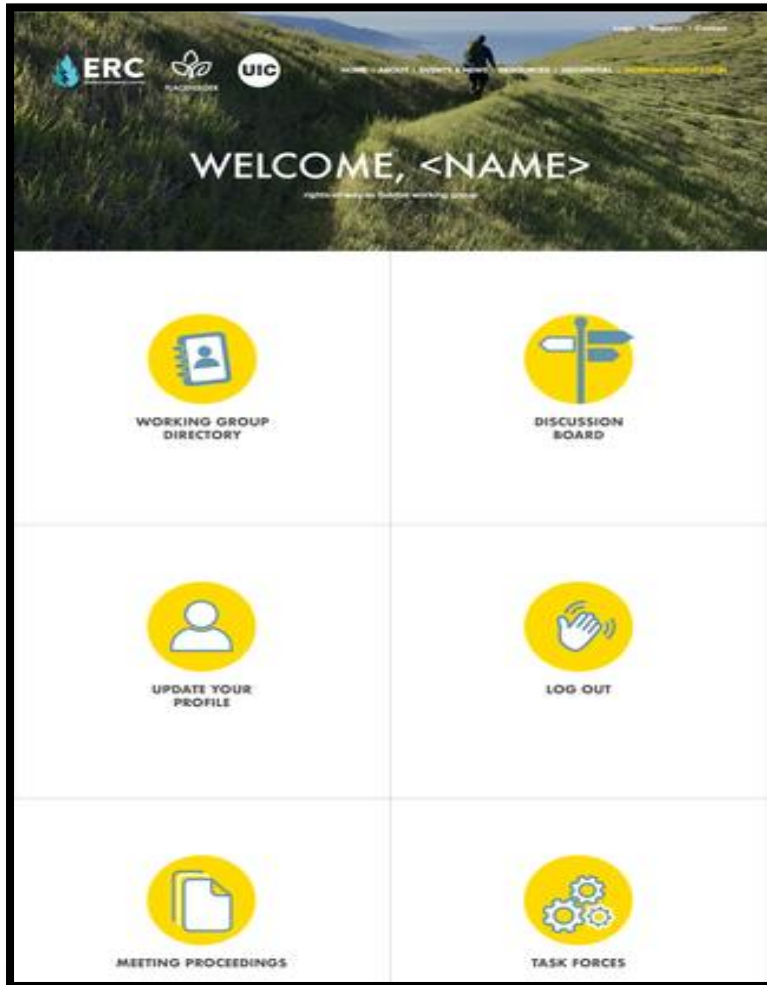
- Complete Phase 1 database build
- Launch web interface
- Bulk upload to Monarch Conservation Database (MCD)
- Continue to expand user base and functionality



**WORKING GROUP
WEBSITE**



New Design



New Website Features

For Working Group Members

Directory Search - Will help find the right contacts based on the member's organization, expertise, sector, state of operation etc.

Geospatial Database – Provide information for data providers and data users

Discussion Board – More engaging and interactive networking platform

For Working Group Members and Non-Members

Search – Internal search tool for every page

Reorganization of resources and tools – More intuitive categories

Dashboard – Preview the latest discussion thread, resource and news on the homepage

Events – Preview upcoming working group related events

Invite a colleague – Allows users to invite industry peers and experts to join the working group



Online Directory

The screenshot shows the 'Working Group Directory' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with logos for ERC (Environmental Research Center), a placeholder logo, and UIC (University of Illinois at Chicago). The main heading is 'WORKING GROUP DIRECTORY'. Below it, there is a search form with two input fields: 'name...' and 'any field...', followed by a blue arrow button. A 'MEMBERS' section is visible, showing a search bar, a 'HIDE / SHOW FORM' button, and a list of three members: Master A (active a minute ago), Master B (active 5 minutes ago), and Master C (active 10 minutes ago). The page also includes links for 'Login', 'Register', and 'Contact' in the top right corner.

name...

any field...

→

MEMBERS

ALL MEMBERS - 3

SEARCH MEMBERS...

HIDE / SHOW FORM

Order by: LAST ACTIVE

Viewing 3 active member

	Master A a minute ago
	Master B 5 minutes ago
	Master C 10 minutes ago

Viewing 3 active member

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey:

[http://www.erc.uic.edu/
rowhwg_directory](http://www.erc.uic.edu/rowhwg_directory)

The registered users of the working group website will be able to search and connect with you based on the information provided in the survey.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Working Group Meeting

October 25, 2018

University of Illinois-Chicago
Chicago, IL



Other Opportunities

- ROW 12 Symposium - Denver
 - September 23 – 26, 2018
- Pheasant Fest - Schaumburg, IL
 - February 22 – 24, 2019