



**HYDROLOGY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES
SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
JULY 13, 2004**

Member/Alternates Present

Pat Page, Chairman
Steve Cullinan
Chuck Lawler
Randy Seaholm
Ron Bliesner
Brian Westfall
Rick Cox (Alternate)
Dan Meyer (Alternate)
Steve Harris
Bernadette Tsosie
John Whipple
Pat Turney (Alternate)
Bill Miller

Representing

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southern Ute Tribe
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Keller-Bliesner Engineering (Bureau of Indian affairs)
Kellner-Bliesner Engineering (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Parsons Water & Infrastructure (Water Development)
Ayres Associates (Jicarilla Apache Nation)
Harris Water Engineering, Inc. (Water Development)
Navajo Nation Dept. of Water Resources
State of New Mexico
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Miller Ecological Consultants, Inc. (Southern Ute Indian Tribe)

Other Interested Parties

Dave King	Bureau of Reclamation
Brian Hanson	Fish and Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Services
Joann Perea-Richmann	Fish and Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Services
Lyle Lewis	Fish and Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Services
Erik Knight	Bureau of Reclamation
Aaron Chavez	San Juan Water Commission

Introductions, Review and Approval of Agenda Items

MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 4-6, 2004

The Committee agreed that comments need to be sent to Joann by 7-23-04.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

Action item log was reviewed and updated. See attached log for July 13, 2004.

BUDGET AND STATUS REPORT

Pat Page gave an update on the O & M budget stating that \$53,774 was the starting dollar amount. Currently \$21,900 has been spent on tech data and the Long Hollow run with Jicarilla. The remaining balance of \$32,000 will be used for further testing new projects in Gen 3 and tech transfer.

Dave King mentioned that he only has 5 days of data and model development funding left and that would be spent responding to comments on the documentation. Pat indicated that he and Dave will get together to work funding needed for the running of the new projects (Jicarilla, Long Hollow and Navajo Gallup) in the Gen3 model if BoR is to make these runs.

Pat Page indicated that KB has about \$7,000 and Ron indicated that the realistic amount left is \$4,400.

Ron Bliesner stated that test runs need to be done for the three remaining projects, in which O&M funds should be used by Dave King. He also mentioned that at the last meeting he thought test runs could be done with funds under the Navajo Gallup consultation, but this is not the case. So it looks like this will be done late or even delayed, due to how money was transferred from Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) to Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). There is even a possibility that it will be on hold or partially funded.

DISCUSSION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONDUCTING OR REQUESTING MODEL RUNS

Pat Page indicated that the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) implemented the following recommendations whenever anyone is conducting and or requesting to have a model run done (citing from the SJRIP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONDUCTING AND/OR REQUESTING MODEL RUNS, Approved by the SJRIP Hydrology Committee, May 18, 2004).

In the event that the applicant runs the model, it is recommended that the Service request Reclamation to review the model runs.

Randy Seaholm stated that he felt this is necessary in order to prevent further problems with model runs being done at the same time.

John Whipple asked if a clean copy of the recommendations for making/requesting model runs was available. Pat said he would send out to the HC the approved recommendations.

GENERATION 3 MODEL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Dave King stated that with the daily operation, we have more of a real world operation. The use of Generation 2 targets in Generation 3 model result in considerable spilling and

flooding. Adjustments were made to the target levels and operation to avoid spilling and flooding, which impacts the ability to meet flow recommendations.

Dave explained that in the decision model they aren't, but they do impact testing of new projects. Using La Plata and Long Hollow as example is how StateMod is going to be used.

The complications of testing new projects prompted the e-mail dated July 9, 2004 on support of new projects both short and long term. Rick Cox expressed concerns on using StateMod for purposes other than computation of natural flows. He was under the impression that this was all that StateMod was used for. StateMod is used to operate all projects except San Juan Chama that are not in the daily decision model. Dave explained that the modeling approach was negotiated in the fall of 2001 and spring of 2002, after realizing that water rights' processing in RiverWare was still going to be problematic. BoR decided to incorporate StateMod into the decision process as well as natural flow computation.

Rick stated he understood water rights were never part of the model.

John Whipple provided the following points:

1. The SJRBHM is a US Bureau of Reclamation model
2. Reclamation may accept model development recommendations from the SJRIP Hydrology Committee.
3. Reclamation is requested to run the SJRBHM with a specified depletion at a particular location. There is no Reclamation or SJRIP Hydrology Committee review or approval of how the specified depletion was generated.
4. Reclamation runs the SJRBHM to check to see if the Flow Recommendations are violated.

John Whipple stated that New Mexico will not approve using StateMod for modeling the La Plata. Rick Cox closed by saying that with the Long Hollow case, we need to be comfortable with the net depletions of the river.

It was concluded that any impacts to other water rights should be addressed by the project proponent. A depletion table also needs to be developed for each model run.

LETTER FROM SAN JUAN WATER COMMISSION

Pat Page acknowledged that he received a letter from San Juan Water Commission requesting that Reclamation report the model results to the Hydrology Committee to verify the applicant's reports for both Jicarilla and Long Hollow Dam Projects. It was agreed by the HC that Pat should contact Randy Kirkpatrick to see what information he wants, being that the reports were already presented.

FY 2005 SOWS REVIEW

Operation & Maintenance - Dave indicated he has not yet completed instructions for testing new projects. Based on discussions we had today regarding how the model runs

are made, how new projects are ran, etc., Reclamation will prepare a draft O&M SOW for FY05 and get it to the committee for their review and approval by July 20th. USGS Gaging Station Visits-FY05 SOW will be similar to FY04.

ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR PROVIDING WATER TO FISH

Nothing at this point.

HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS DISCUSSION

Comments on extreme conditions are due to Ron by September 15, 2004.

Explanation of 1st sentence on page 2 “End of July Reservoir” needs clarification of shortage in Sept, Oct. Also, on the table for depletion on the Four Corner should that be Actual or Approved? – make a note as to which one it is.

Continue extreme conditions -- based upon July 1st forecast and looking at the recommendations of the Biology Committee for the trigger it will still be in effect at one million acre feet.

HC unanimously agreed that we are still in extreme condition.

NAVAJO RESERVOIR OPERATIONS

Status – The release will be increased to 600 cfs on 7-14-04. In June when a release was made it rained all night and we missed flow recommendations. The daily on the 3-gages average was 482 cfs and seven day as of 7-13-04 was 562 cfs and dropping rapidly. This morning was 377 cfs and Shiprock was at 420 cfs. So to stay at the 400 cfs level the increase needs to be made.

Shortage Sharing Update - No shortage anticipated based on latest forecast. Latest forecast (minimum probable) indicates an end-of-December elevation of 6020 feet. 2004 Shortage Sharing information will be on the website soon.

ACTION ITEMS

- Dave will send out an explanation on depletion differences.
- John Simons will send out narrative on ALP Navajo EIS.
- Comments for May 18th DRAFT minutes are due to Joann by July 20, 2004 which will reflect approval of 2.6 Data Set (REVISED JICARILLA BASELINE) which was approved at May 18, 2004 meeting.
- Reclamation will prepare a DRAFT 05 SOW for O&M to include:
 - (1) Modeling for potential flow recommendations modifications
 - (2) Modeling for those who requests, Reclamation to make model runs.
 - (3) General O&M to include computer hardware, model upgrade and refinement and Tech transfer
 - (4) General contingency fund.
- John Simons will develop the depletion table for on the Long Hollow run.

CONFERENCE CALL ADJOURNED AT NOON