



**San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program  
Biology Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2004**

**Members Present**

Chuck McAda  
David Propst  
Bill Miller  
Ron Bliesner  
Tom Wesche  
Vincent Lamarra  
Paul Holden  
Jim Brooks  
Mark McKinstry  
Tom Nesler

**Representing**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6  
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Water Development Interests  
Navajo Nation  
Jicarilla Apache Nation  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Fishery Resources  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Colorado Division of Wildlife

**Others Attending**

Brian Hanson  
Mike Buntjer  
Joann Perea-Richmann  
Dale Ryden  
Jason Davis

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6, Colorado  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Fishery Resources

Melissa Trammell  
Steve Harris  
Matthew Anderson  
Albert Lapahie  
Ernie Teller  
Bob Krakow  
Sara Gottlieb  
Steven Platania  
Rob Ashman

National Park Service  
Southwestern Water Conservation District  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife Department  
Bureau of Indian Affairs-NIIP  
Bureau of Indian Affairs-NIIP  
University of New Mexico  
University of New Mexico  
Public Service Company of NM-SJGS

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Committee approved minutes for May 4-6, 2004 and July 13, 2004.

**UPDATE OF COORDINATOR POSITION FOR SJRIP (BRIAN HANSON – FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE)**

Brian Hanson addressed the committee stating that he'd received both internal and external applicant certificates for this position and was in the process of reviewing them. He will be interviewing those applicants within the next couple of weeks. Some questions arose over whether a GS-13 was needed and whether the Coordinator position should be a Facilitator position and the need for that person to be full time.

**FY05 BUDGET REVIEW (CHUCK MCADA AND BIOLOGY COMMITTEE (BC))**

The committee reviewed and revised projects in which they felt could be reduced in order to help in the overage of the Statement of Work (SOWs) for FY05. The committee has adjusted their project net reductions by \$74,000 which would not hurt any projects. Most of the committee's concerns are with charges of the Coordinator/Program Assistant and Program Management and the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR). It was stated that in the past the two FWS positions were funded by in kind contributions. The committee agreed that if further reduction is needed after suggested cuts are made, all projects would take up to a 2.5% reduction without further discussion. Further reductions would require consultation among the committee. The committee agreed that this issue needs to be addressed with the Coordination Committee September 10, 2004. All funding adjustments were made in a spreadsheet by Ron Bliesner, which was to be distributed to the Coordination Committee the following day.

Areas that would take cuts are as follows:

Razorback Sucker Augmentation and Monitoring	\$12,000
Holding Facility for Larval Razorback Sucker at UNM	\$9,430
Also proposed was a reduction in the HC budget	\$20,000

Areas where *carry over* funds from 2004 may be used for 2005 budget:

Peer Review	\$23,000
Nonnative Species Monitoring and Control	\$10,000
FWS funds for Program Coordinator and Assistant	\$55,000
FWS and BoR committee member involvement from Program funds rather than inkind funds	\$ need information
Funds remaining from 2004 budget – BoR	\$ need information

Using the above cuts in Biology Committee SOWs, and suggested cuts to the Hydrology Committee and carryover funding, the budget was still about \$20,000 short.

**INTEGRATION REPORT UPDATES (BILL MILLER- MILLER ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS, INC.)**

In order to complete the final evaluation of the monitoring program \$15,000 additional money would be needed. The committee agreed to this additional funding. This report would include summarizing monitoring, statistical analysis, water temperatures and water quality. Mr. Miller will update the Integration Report and get it out to the BC by mid October.

**BUDGET CHANGES FORFY06 (MARK MCKINSTRY- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION BOR)**

BoR stated that any new RFPs in the future will be on a year-to-year contract award basis. This has been directed from management high up from BoR. It would be possible

that an Indian Tribe would be able to request a 638 be done for their RFPs. This would allow the work be done within that tribe. It was also mentioned that if a contractor who wants to bid on a project would not be able to write up the SOW for that particular project.

The committee agreed that the Coordination Committee needs to be addressed on the way new RFPs will be handled and the effect it may have on new projects.

- Change the way new RFPs are to be honored and solicited with BoR.
- BC members need to get with their counter parts to address this.
- Address this with their State and Federal counterparts.

#### **POND MANAGEMENT (ALBERT LAPAHIE)**

Discussion regarding the fish rearing ponds was that Navajo Nation is not currently working this due to shortage of manpower. The primary job at this time is the fish passage. Paperwork for some of these projects seemsto be with the Navajo Nation. It was also mentioned that facilities for the Navajo Nation staff are needed with computers, phones and other operation cost.

#### **DISCUSSION ON COLORADO'S REQUEST REGARDING ANDERSON REPORT**

Chuck indicated that the state of Colorado had requested that the SJRIP consider a report by Rick Anderson as a possible technique to determine future flow recommendations. The upper basin biology committee is also considering this report. They are formally reviewing the report and will provide a formal recommendation as to its merit. Chuck suggested that we wait for their conclusions. Several committee members indicated that they are providing formal comments to Rick. Upper basin comments are due to Rick by the end of September. San Juan members should provide their comments directly to Rick for his consideration so that he can address them as well.

#### **ANIMAS PIKE MINNOW UPDATE**

Colorado pikeminnow were stocked in the San Juan River in June 2004, about 100 yards downstream from the mouth of the Animas. Pike minnow wererecaptured in the lower Animas River, about 1 month after stocking. The committee agreed that this was useful information, but would wait to see how the population in that area of the San Juan River expands before incorporating the lower Animas into standard monitoring programs. Paul felt that his seining to monitor YOY stocking would also capture the larger fish if they are available during his sampling time. Chuck indicated that BR would fund at least one more year of the Animas monitoring.

#### **HOGBACK DIVERSION**

UNM asked the committee for an additional \$15,000 to complete sampling and to modify the original RFP. The original RFP described a full season of sampling. However, the late start meant that sampling would be split among two years. Steve Platania requested our concurrence with adding \$15 K to the budget to allow fall sampling in 2004 and a full

field season of sampling in 2005. Mr. Platania indicated that he spoke to Melynda Roberts (BoR) who said that additional funds from 2004 are available and could be used. The committee agreed with the modification on the condition that FY04 funds could be used.

Next meetings will be:

Conference Call -- September 30, 2004, 9:00 am – Noon

Meeting in Farmington -- February 15-16, 2004, 8 am – 4 pm

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.



**San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program  
Biology Committee Conference Call Minutes  
September 30, 2004**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chuck McAda  
David Propst  
Bill Miller  
Ron Bliesner  
Tom Wesche  
Paul Holden  
Jim Brooks  
Mark McKinstry  
Tom Nesler

**REPRESENTING**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6  
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Water Development Interests  
Jicarilla Apache Nation  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Fishery Resources  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Colorado Division of Wildlife

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

Brian Hanson  
Joann Perea-Richmann  
Jason Davis  
Sara Gottlieb  
Julie Jackson

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Fishery Resources  
University of New Mexico

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTE**

Committee will review and approve September 9, 2004 Draft minutes at the next meeting.

**UPDATE OF COORDINATOR POSITION FOR SJRIP**

Brian Hanson addressed the committee stating he, Paul Holden and Tom Pitts will be interviewing the qualified candidates starting next week. The whole process should take about 3-4 weeks.

**Fiscal Year 05 (FY) BUDGET REVIEW – Biology Committee (BC)**

Brian addressed the committee saying that about \$70,000 was left over from FY04 budget, which would be able to offset FY05 budget. Ron Bliesner indicated that the Hydrology Committee (HC) agreed to their cut of \$20,000. Bill Miller indicated that his new budget would be about

\$14,680 and would submit a new statement of work for it. Mark McKinstry indicated that he would be submitting a new SOW for his part. Ron Bliesner stated that even with these cuts we are still .5% off. The BC agreed to update the budget spreadsheet forward it to the Coordination Committee for their review and will suggest they conduct a conference call.

**PRIORITIZING FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 05 (FY)**

The following is the list of projects which will be done

- Paul Holden & Bill Miller
- Mark McKinstry -- Kansas State Contract
- Ron Bliesner & Dave Propst (mid July time frame)
- Julie Jackson (Utah)
- Sara Gottlieb (UNM)

**RESPONSE FOR UPPER BASIN LETTER DATED 3/25/04**

The committee discussed the letter from Colorado Water Conservation Board referencing CDOW Riverine Fish Flow Investigations & Instream Flow Recommendations for Colorado and Yampa Rivers. The letter is requesting that the BC consider adopting the Anderson methodology for instream flow recommendations for native fish. The committee discussed this and concluded that they should address technical questions to Rick Anderson, and to request the Upper Basin technical review portion from him as well.

**RFP CONTRACTS**

Mark McKinstry indicated that he would move forward with projects within his office so they won't get dropped or put behind. Also, permits will be needed from anyone who bids on projects.

Conference call adjourned at 11:00 am.

**NEXT MEETING:**

February 15-16, 2004, 8 am – 4 pm  
Best Western Inn & Suites (Meeting Rm. D-2)  
700 Scott Ave  
Farmington, NM