



**San Juan River Basin Recovery
Implementation Program (SJRIP)
Annual Meeting and
Coordination Committee Meeting
18 May 2022**

FINAL SUMMARY

Coordination Committee (CC) Members:

Jason Davis, Chair
Lisa Yellow Eagle, CC alternate
Jen Dumas, CC alternate
Leland Begay
Crystal Tulley-Cordova
Ali Effati, CC alternate
Michelle Garrison
Rudy Keedah
Ryan Christianson
Dale Ryden
Tom Pitts
Absent
Joseph Trungale

Representing

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service), Region 2
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Jicarilla Apache Nation
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Navajo Nation
State of New Mexico
State of Colorado
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
Service, Region 6
Water Development Interests
Bureau of Land Management
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Program Office (PO):

Melissa Mata, Program Coordinator
Eliza Gilbert, Assistant Program Coordinator
Scott Durst, Science Coordinator
James Sykes, Program Support Assistant
Kayla Kelley, SJRIP Fellow

Representing

Service, Region 2
Service, Region 2
Service, Region 2
Service, Region 2
Service, Region 2

Other Interested Parties:

Colleen Cunningham, CC alternate
Emily Halvorsen
William Miller, BC member
Jacob Mazzone, BC member
Mark McKinstry, BC member
Tom Chart, BC member
Melissa Trammel
Nathan Franssen
Pam Norris
Aaron Chavez
Adam Barkalow, BC alternate
Brian Westfall, BC member
Carrie Padgett, BC alternate
Nate Caswell

Representing:

State of New Mexico
State of Colorado
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Jicarilla Apache Nation
Reclamation
Water Development Interests
National Park Service (NPS)
Service, Region 2
Arizona Public Service
San Juan Water Commission
State of New Mexico
BIA
Water Development Interests
Service, Region 2

Stephen Davenport, BC member	Service, Region 2
Tracy Diver, BC alternate	Service, Region 2
Harry Crockett, BC chair	State of Colorado
Debra Hill, CC alternate	Service, Region 2
Jamie Shockey	City of Farmington
Tildon Jones	Service, Region 6
Kara Scheel	State of Colorado
David Kitcheyan, CC alternate	BIA
Martha Cooper	The Nature Conservancy
Benjamin Schleicher, BC member	Service, Region 6
David Speas	Reclamation
Julie Stahl	Service, Region 6
Mel Warren	SJRIP Peer Reviewer
Wade Wilson	Service, Region 2
Matthew Zeigler, BC member	State of New Mexico
Brian Hines	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Ron Bliesner, BC alternate	BIA
Susan Behery	Reclamation
Alex Birchfield	Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
Melody Saltzgiver	Service, Region 2
Kerri Pederson	Reclamation

Welcome, introductions, and overview of Annual Meeting – Mata

Mata provided an outline to the day’s meeting starting with a recap of 2021 and update of 2022 hydrology from Behery, Mata’s SJRIP Annual Meeting presentation, followed by a Coordination Committee (CC) meeting.

San Juan River Basin hydrology, flow recommendations, Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) – Behery

Behery reviewed the 2021 water year hydrology and operations. While snowpack was just above average, very dry soil conditions resulted in insufficient inflows and there being no Spring Peak Release from Navajo. No Flow Recommendation flow goals were met (only reached 4 days at 2,500 cfs at Four Corners). The monsoon season was average and wasn’t sufficient to overcome the soil moisture deficit.

The forecast hydrology and operations for the 2022 water year included very dry soils and conditions drier than 2021 in some places and storage in Navajo Reservoir started the 2022 water year lower than 2021. The most probable forecast for 2022 is for 380,000 af (60% of average) with no planned Spring Peak release and no flow goals projected to be reached (likely only reaching 3 days at 2,500 cfs at Four Corners). Runoff is already occurring 2-3 weeks earlier than average across most sub-basins. Additionally, 2022 was calculated as a perturbation year based on monsoon activity in 2021.

There is no DROA release planned from Navajo during the 2022 water year. The planned 2021 release from Navajo did not occur due to on-going dry conditions but releases from Flaming Gorge and Blue Mesa totaling 161,000 af were made to Lake Powell.

Pitts asked if the persistent dry conditions are the new normal rather than a short-term drought? The SJRIP and CC will need to consider how to move forward if Flow Recommendation can’t be met.

Warren indicated that releases from Navajo are one of the SJRIP's primary management tools. If this tool is lost, prospects for Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker recovery in the San Juan River Basin are more difficult. Davis suggested this discussion be on the agenda for future CC meetings.

Annual SJRIP program review – Mata

Mata provided a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Program. The presentation is enclosed with this summary. Mata outlined her presentation and said it would focus on accomplishments of the past year, an update on the status of the species in the San Juan River and wrap up by detailing future recovery needs.

Extensive coordination among Federal and State partners resulted in a finalized plan for DROA. Although there were no releases conducted from Navajo, with the SJRIP's on-going inability to meet desired targets for the Flow Recommendations, further demands on water in Navajo are cause for significant concern.

Since 2010, the SJRIP's high flow targets have not been met at the recommended frequency. Since high flow increases the frequency of occurrence and size of important low-velocity nursery habitat, this habitat limitation is likely impeding progress toward recovery in the San Juan River Basin. The Jicarilla water lease agreement might provide an example of a creative path forward to provide flows for endangered fishes in the San Juan River Basin. This lease agreement, which is currently pending the permit approval by the Office of the State Engineer, could provide up to 20,000 acre-feet of water per year, depending on available funding and other factors. The SJRIP should further investigate this model as a tool for additional augmentation of flows in the future. Additionally, in the absence of high flows, habitat may need to be created through other means. The Phase III wetland entrained wild Razorback Sucker larvae as intended but subsequently failed due to inadequate design/construction to withstand high flow conditions in the San Juan River. The SJRIP should learn from the Phase III failure and continue habitat restoration efforts. Pitts said that these constructed habitats could be helpful in achieving recovery, but the SJRIP needs to know how many are needed and an estimate of the total cost. Mata said we would likely need to see the output (i.e., wild juvenile fish produced) from a single constructed wetland before we would know how many would be needed for recovery.

The SJRIP constructed the PNM Fish Passage in 2003. However, few endangered fish passed through the facility. Following various modifications to the facility between 2018 and 2022 and operating the passage open from March through May (allowing fish to passively swim through the passage), adding cobble substrate to the entrance to the fish trap, and increasing the spacing between bars in the upstream trash rack, appear to have increased the number of fish that successfully navigated the passage to a record number of 617 Razorback Sucker in 2022 at the time of this meeting. Davis highlighted these efforts as an example of successful adaptive management. Fish behavior and movement at barriers like the Piute Farms Waterfall and PNM Fish Passage indicates fish are attempting to move upstream of these obstructions. This kind of information helped the SJRIP come up with a diversion prioritization to assess and address entrainment risk and movement barriers in the San Juan River Basin. Davis suggested that there is an opportunity for the SJRIP to take advantage of funds in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill to address fish passage issues. These funds would be dispersed through the Service and its Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCOs).

The SJRIP held a nonnative fish symposium this past winter to make progress at its impasse in nonnative fish management. The symposium resulted in a decision to take a hiatus from typical nonnative fish removal in order to focus on methods to increase the efficiency of nonnative fish management efforts and methods to increase the survival and abundance of stocked Colorado

Pikeminnow. A sub-group of BC members asked for SOWs that were submitted for consideration in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 annual work plan to address this approach. Additionally, past efforts by the SJRIP have found that hatchery enrichment such as flow-conditioning resulted in doubling first-year post-stocking survival for Razorback Sucker. These and other hatchery enrichment efforts should become more widespread to increase the efficiency of the SJRIP's management actions.

Current downlist and delist Recovery Goals for Razorback Sucker in the San Juan River call for 5,800 adults and a population that is self-sustaining. Mean abundance estimates of adult Razorback Sucker from demographic monitoring in the San Juan River were 2,798 and 2,987 fish in 2019 and 2021, respectively. These do not include numbers of fish present in the San Juan River arm of Lake Powell and estimates were conducted downstream of reaches of the San Juan River known to have high densities of adult Razorback Sucker. Additionally, these estimates exclude the numerous fish present downstream of the Piute Farms Waterfall. So, abundance estimates from demographic monitoring are likely lower than the actual abundance because those reaches were excluded from sampling. All detection and capture records in the STReaMS database indicate 5,818 unique age-4+ hatchery reared Razorback Sucker in the San Juan River Basin from 2019-2021. Thus, the SJRIP has made considerable progress in establishing a large population of hatchery-reared Razorback Sucker as a result of its management efforts. All of these hatchery reared fish count towards recovery once a self-sustaining population is established.

Similarly, the mean average of age-4+ Colorado Pikeminnow in the San Juan River was estimated to be 142 and 445 individuals in 2019 and 2021, respectively. While there was substantial variation around the 2021 estimate, over the last five years, 185 unique age-7+ individuals were encountered across all detection and capture efforts in the STReaMS database. While these estimates fall short of the 800 adults identified in the Recovery Goals for this species, they demonstrate the SJRIP's success in building a population of hatchery-derived Colorado Pikeminnow in the San Juan River.

Both Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker populations in the San Juan River are sustained by on-going hatchery augmentation but they regularly reproduce as demonstrated by captures of their larvae and the increasing trend in the density of larval captures. However, the SJRIP has yet to observe recruitment of these larval fish to subsequent life-stages.

To further recovery efforts in the San Juan River Basin, the SJRIP needs to explore acquiring and protecting flows to better meet flow recommendations and also conduct habitat restoration in the absence of flows that create and maintain habitat. Efforts to provide fish passage at existing structures like Arizona Public Service (APS) and Public Service of New Mexico (PNM) weirs while evaluating the effectiveness of passage at Hogback should continue in addition to assessing and providing further upstream passage by implementing the plan outlined in the diversion prioritization exercise. Because past efforts to manage nonnative fish proved costly and without substantial obvious benefit to the native fish community, the SJRIP is taking a hiatus from typical management activities to work on improving the efficiency of its nonnative management efforts while limiting the introduction of additional nonnative threats. The hiatus is intended to be used to assess other methods to increase nonnative fish removal efficiency and novel techniques such as introducing YY Channel Catfish. While reducing nonnative fish reduces any threat they may pose to recovery, increasing the number and survival of stocked Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker can similarly minimize the threat posed by nonnative fish. The SJRIP needs to explore hatchery enrichment to improve the quality of its stocked fish to speed progress toward recovery. Finally, continued discussion and negotiation to craft the future of the SJRIP post-2023 is paramount to sustain the success in the San Juan River Basin that has been achieved based on all of its past management efforts. The progress that has been made

would not have been possible without the SJRIP's efforts. So, with the upcoming expiration of the recovery programs it will be critical to define their future and secure the necessary funding.

Pitts asked if the SJRIP had a nonnative fish stocking agreement similar to the Upper Colorado Recovery Program. Mata described the agreement in place for stocking nonnative fish in the San Juan River Basin and efforts to come to similar agreements with Tribal parties.

Pitts suggested that we need to be realistic about what can be achieved in terms of recovery in the San Juan River Basin in the absence of flows according to the Flow Recommendations. Pitts indicated he was not sure what can be achieved but there are flow and habitat limitations that need to be addressed with a science-based approach. Mata highlighted all the progress that has been made despite these limitations. Mazzone asked what approach the Upper Colorado Recovery Program was taking to address these widespread hydrologic concerns? Pitts said a Service review of the Programmatic Biological Opinion on the Colorado River providing ESA compliance for ~ 1 million af of depletions requires review and, if necessary, revising flow recommendations for the Colorado River. Garrison asked Mata to share the presentation slides and also expressed concerns about making progress in the future with the on-going hydrologic issues.

Introductions and changes to the agenda for SJRIP CC meeting – Davis

Davis reviewed the CC roster and Garrison introduced Kara Scheel, Water Resource Specialist, Colorado Water Conservation Board. Scheel's role will be further defined in the future. Mata indicated that she would provide the update on the new SJRIP website as Ware is not available for the meeting.

Review action items and approve summary of 9 February 2022 meeting (vote) – Gilbert

Comments from Pitts and Christianson were incorporated in the revised version that was distributed prior to this meeting. Pitts motioned to approve the revised summary and Christianson seconded. There was no further discussion and the revised summary was unanimously approved as final.

Review of Action Items identified during 9 February 2022 meeting – Gilbert

1. The CC is in the process of voting to invite the National Park Service (NPS) as a signatory participant.

Gilbert reported this Action Item is on-going. Davis asked how do we resolve this task? New Mexico and Colorado are waiting for Utah to join the SJRIP and hear that state's perspective before voting to accept NPS as a member of the SJRIP. Mata will follow up with Chris Kelleher for Utah's position on this agenda item. Davis asked that this task appear on the next schedule CC meeting while the voting remains open. An update from Utah on their thoughts regarding NPS joining the SJRIP should occur at that meeting too.

2. The CC is in the process of approving the draft Section 7 Principles for review by the Service's Solicitor.

Gilbert reported that this has been approved by the CC and has been sent to the Environmental Review branch and Solicitor for their feedback. Minor comments from Environmental Review are being incorporated and Solicitor review is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

3. Mata will coordinate with outstanding parties on participation in the Nonnative Fish Stocking Cooperative Agreement.

On-going.

4. The PO will draft an addendum to the Program Document to clarify signatory participation and email voting procedures. This will be sent to the CC for review and comment.
Gilbert incorporated CC comments and the revised document will soon be posted to the SJRIP website.
5. Mata and Callister will develop methods to fund priority fiscal year 2022 scopes of work.
Given funding for 2022 was provided, there was no further need to pursue this agenda item.
6. Mata will send a Doodle poll in late February to schedule a May CC meeting.
Completed, resulting in today's meeting.

Update Colorado Pikeminnow Recovery Plan – Tildon Jones

Jones outlined the Recovery Plan as a “road map” from the Species Status Assessment (SSA) to achieve recovery according to the Service’s Recovery Planning and Implementation (RPI) process. The RPI includes the SSA, Recovery Plan, and Recovery Implementation Strategy (RIS) that incorporates estimates of time and cost to achieve recovery. The RIS is analogous to the Upper Colorado Recovery Program’s RIP-RAP or the SJRIP’s Long Range Plan. Jones is asking the CC for their input on the time and costs estimates for the RIS that account for the costs of needed recovery activities over a defined period of time. Davis asked how the CC wants to provide this input? For the Upper Colorado Recovery Program’s Management Committee, Jones is providing Colorado Pikeminnow specific costs outlined in the post-2023 recovery activities. Pitts suggested Jones provide the same costs to the CC for the SJRIP’s Colorado Pikeminnow post-2023 activities. The CC supports this idea and Jones will extract post-2023 cost estimates specific to Colorado Pikeminnow in the San Juan River Basin for CC review and rely on them to identify errors or missing costs.

Jones reiterated that the Recovery Plan is a guidance document from the Service outlining a path to take Colorado Pikeminnow from their current status described in the SSA to recovery. The Recovery Plan is not a regulatory document, it does not provide for a contractual agreement, nor is it the only path to recovery. The recovery team acknowledged uncertainty regarding the size of the Colorado Pikeminnow population that could be supported in the San Juan River Basin while highlighting the important redundancy provided by having a population established in San Juan River Basin. Jones requested CC review of the draft Recovery Plan by the end of May.

Biology Committee (BC) meeting review – Harry Crockett

Crockett reported that the BC devoted the majority of its meeting to the FY2023 Annual Work Plan that will be detailed in the next agenda item. Also, Behery presented the same 2022 water year forecast the CC saw earlier this morning. Crockett noted that the rehabilitation of the Phase III wetland was completed by the Navajo Nation. The APS Fish Passage is in the design phase and Christianson reported that funding was applied for under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) and it would not apply to the SJRIP’s capital cost-ceiling if BIL funding is obtained. Bowman shared plans of a possible solar bank near the NAPI grow-out ponds. This might result in a heat sink at the ponds that could increase water temperatures. The consequences are not fully understood but could result in increased Razorback Sucker growth. The BC discussed a possible grow-out pond or managed wetland in Bluff, UT near Recapture Lodge. The site has had past TNC involvement, ideal topography, water rights, and an interested landowner with a developed conservation plan. Crockett thought it was a promising idea. Zeigler gave an update on Channel Catfish YY supermales. There are lots of regulatory hurdles, but NMDGF is pursuing this via Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA). Mata provided the latest news on the nonnative fish stocking agreement. Crockett reported on the illegal introduction of Smallmouth Bass in Long Hollow Reservoir. He will

provide updates at future meetings, but it appears eradication efforts over the winter were successful and Barkalow noted that sampling the La Plata River in New Mexico did not detect Smallmouth Bass. Finally, Crockett noted the reiteration of protocols to fin clip all juvenile T&E fish in the San Juan River for further genetic analysis and a discussion of the discrepancy in river miles for the San Juan River between existing shapefiles and National Hydrologic Data.

Fiscal year 2023 draft annual work plan and budget, technical comments on scopes of work, and next steps in process – Mata/Crockett

The BC spent most of their time discussing SOWs for five new projects that were dedicated to looking at ways to increase the abundance and survival of stocked fish or increasing the efficiency of nonnative fish management efforts during the 3-5-year hiatus from typical nonnative fish management efforts. Additionally, SOWs were submitted for approximately two dozen on-going projects. This version of the annual work plan that includes all new and on-going projects results in an approximately \$700,000 deficit. Comments from BC members, Peer Reviewer, and PO were shared prior to the meeting. Based on those comments and the discussion at the BC meeting, PIs will revise SOWs and address comments by 3 June 2022. In general, the BC was supportive of 3 of the 5 new SOWs: New-1 (nonnative fish literature review and data synthesis), New-2 (evaluation of temporal and spatial Channel Catfish spawning patterns), and New-4 (larval and egg stocking of Colorado Pikeminnow). The BC also provide input on existing SOWs that could be scaled back in FY 2023 to fund high priority new SOWs. The PO will take all this into consideration to develop a second draft of the FY 2023 Annual Work Plan within budget for BC and CC review by 17 June 2022. The BC will review and recommend this next draft of the Annual Work Plan during their 14 July 2022 meeting and the CC will review and decide whether to approve the BC recommended version of the work plan during their 3 August 2022 meeting.

Capital projects general update (APS, Hogback, PNM) – Christianson

Christianson shared his spreadsheet of projects and provided an update on developing a new O&M agreement with Navajo Nation that will cover all existing and any new projects on Navajo Nation lands. This currently includes Fruitland, APS, Hogback, and NAPI Ponds. Because PNM is closing their power plant and the weir facility is being taken over as part of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, it will be important to have Navajo Nation take over O&M responsibility. Christianson will provide a draft agreement to the Service and Navajo Nation for their input once Reclamation has completed its internal draft process.

Upcoming capital projects include the design for the APS Fish Passage. Also, efforts are underway to resolve the variable frequency driver interference with PIT tag antenna at Hogback. The SJRIP approved \$1.2 million to resolve this issue but it appears the purchase and installation of new pumps with soft starts should solve the problem with interference for about \$400,000. Reclamation has provided funding for Fruitland and construction is on track to commence this fall. The SJRIP will need to decide if there is further need for capital projects for the Piute Farms Waterfall and the PNM Fish Passage. Reclamation has applied for funding from the Bi-partisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) for some of these projects to offset SJRIP capital funding and to keep the SJRIP capital ceiling intact (i.e., funding provide by the infrastructure bill would not count against the cost ceiling).

Any capital funding for Jewett Valley and Farmers Mutual would occur post-2023. It may also be possible to fund improvements at these facilities through the BIL. The Farmer's Mutual Ditch Association is currently working on rehabilitation of its Animas River withdrawal infrastructure and once this is underway, they may be able to prioritize working with the SJRIP on their San Juan River

withdrawal infrastructure. Details for work at these projects is still very preliminary. Christianson indicated that improvements at the hatcheries and grow-out ponds could also apply for BIL funding. Davis asked to be kept in the loop because of possible Service funding through the BIL to address fish passage. Christianson will distribute his table of capital project updates.

Capital request for SNARRC improvements to provide hatchery enrichment prior to stocking fish (vote) – Gilbert

Gilbert indicated that her goal with the presentation was to get the CC on the same page before considering funding the proposal they have previously seen following a few rounds of revisions and a subsequent BC recommendation to fund. The proposed hatchery enrichment investment is intended to reach downlist and delist goals in the San Juan River in the most efficient and financially responsible manner. SNARRC provides the age-1 Colorado Pikeminnow currently stocked in the San Juan and these past augmentation efforts have resulted in the population we see in the river. However, without substantial wild recruitment, stocking will need to continue to sustain and increase these populations. To increase the number of Colorado Pikeminnow in the river, we can increase numbers of fish stocked or increase the survival of fish stocked. There is ample evidence in the scientific literature that fish survival post-stocking can be increased through hatchery enrichment. In fact, the SJRIP has shown Razorback Sucker first-year survival doubled following flow-conditioning.

Gilbert detailed back-of-the-envelope cost estimates of status quo age-1 Colorado Pikeminnow stocking, investment in hatchery enrichment resulting in doubling first-year survival, and investment to double hatchery production of age-1 Colorado Pikeminnow. Cost estimates for investments in hatchery enrichment or increased production are similar but annual costs for hatchery enrichment are similar or only slightly higher than status quo while increased production annual costs are substantially higher.

If the SJRIP wants to try to put more age-1 Colorado Pikeminnow in the river, hatchery enrichment seems like the appropriate choice. However, if the CC is satisfied with the current pace of recovery, we could stay with status quo operations. But the shift from stocking age-0 to age-1 Colorado Pikeminnow was made conditioned on conducting hatchery enrichment for those fish. Additionally, this proposal is in response to the post-2023 request to identify efficiencies in the SJRIP.

The proposal includes four flow chambers to flow-condition all age-1 Colorado Pikeminnow before stocking. Four ponds would be constructed to conduct additional enrichment such as prey training, predator avoidance, and exposing hatchery-reared fish to habitat complexity prior to stocking. Finally, the proposal includes a support building for the new flow chambers and ponds.

McKinstry asked how funds would best be transferred. The Service and SNARRC have no preference at this time and could best address this in an off-line conversation. Pitts asked where this would fall on the capital projects priority list if funded. Christianson is confident that infrastructure bill funding would be available and not affect the SJRIP capital ceiling. It appears any transfer of funds would entail the standard 3% overhead cost that been part of existing legislation and would likely continue in future legislation.

Davis acknowledged the SJRIP has limited management options and hatchery enrichment would be a good investment to add to the “toolbox” to increase the SJRIP’s flexibility in the future. Pitts motioned to approve funding for the proposal, Garrison seconded the motion, there was no further discussion, and the proposal was unanimously approved for funding.

Colorado Pikeminnow egg and larvae stocking – Diver/Mata

Diver provided details on this pilot planned for FY2022 at no cost to the SJRIP. This effort has also been submitted as a SOW for consideration in the FY2023 Annual Work Plan. This project to stock Colorado Pikeminnow eggs and larvae was developed in response to the SJRIP's Nonnative Fish Symposium suggestion to increase the number Colorado Pikeminnow given the constraints on SNARRC production capabilities. Stocking fish at an earlier life-stage (eggs and larvae) could be conducted without further demands on infrastructure and broodstock at SNARRC. Because these fish would be stocked at sizes too small to PIT tag, recaptures of fish stocked as eggs or larvae could be distinguished from each other genetically to determine if one treatment is more successful (i.e., eggs versus larvae) and also differentiate them from wild-spawned fish. Eggs and larvae would be stocked at upstream locations in secondary channels in the San Juan River but downstream of major diversions. Existing monitoring efforts would be used to evaluate the success of this pilot effort.

Davis confirmed that this pilot was vetted and recommended by the BC and would not confound current research and monitoring efforts. Davis asked if there was any concern with conducting the pilot during a year with likely low spring runoff. Diver indicated that Colorado Pikeminnow is spawned earlier in the hatchery than they do in the wild, but the low flows conditions predicted for 2022 would likely result in eggs and larvae being stocked in flow conditions more similar to when fish would naturally spawn. Given there was no request to fund the pilot, there is no need for CC approval, but Davis and others appreciated keeping the CC in the loop about the effort.

Washington, D.C. trip – Trip participants

Pitts thanked Bill Miller and Harry Crockett for their important participation as they address the science and biology questions during these briefings. Pitts highlighted the tribal participation by Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Nation, and Southern Ute Indian Tribe during the briefings. Twenty-six briefings have been conducted of the House and Senate offices and the authorizing and appropriations subcommittees for the Service and Reclamation by the non-federal participants in both programs. These briefings were conducted virtually, and that format may continue in the future.

Congressional staff and sub-committees were pleased to learn about the recent downlist decision for the Humpback Chub and the proposed downlisting of the Razorback Sucker. The congressional briefings are critical to maintaining congressional and administration support to assure continued funding for the SJRIP and support for needed changes in the authorizing legislation. Future briefings are planned for the Service, Reclamation, and Department of Interior directorates and Office of Management and Budget.

Post-2023 Update

- a) Review and approve Report to Congress (vote) – Mata
- b) Review progress of Post-2023 Funding Group – Garrison
- c) Timeline and necessary tasks – Pitts

Mata reported that a final version of the post-2023 Secretary of the Interior's Report to Congress has been reviewed by the various post-2023 committees and Solicitors for Reclamation and the Service. To meet deadlines the report needs to be routed to the Interior directorate by the end of the month. Pitts motioned to approve the Report to Congress, Ryden seconded, there was no further discussion, and the Report to Congress was unanimously approved.

Garrison reported on the progress of the post-2023 funding group. There is agreement on a 15-year authorization period and a \$100 million capital cost ceiling for the two recovery programs. It also appears possible to increase the capital cost ceiling if recent high inflation continues. The post-2023 funding group continues to work to resolve annual funding issues to find equitable, sustainable, and reliable solutions that includes Federal appropriations and non-Federal partners. Efforts continue to account for all sources of past and future in-kind contributions. This has been difficult because in-kind contributions have not been reliably tracked across recovery program partners. The group is also working to account for the federal agencies tribal trust responsibility and estimate funding related to that responsibility. The States have a meeting with the Interior Regional Directors to work through some of these issues on 2 June 2022. It will be important to reach an agreement on funding so work on cooperative agreement and NEPA can commence.

Pitts noted that the Report to Congress was supposed to be submitted 30 September 2021 but was delayed to 30 September 2022 because of the pandemic. That will allow only one year for Congressional funding legislation to be passed (i.e., before the start of FY2024). Thus, it will be important to provide a single funding proposal for the recovery programs from the post-2023 funding group that all parties agree to. Because Congress will scrutinize the reauthorization of the recovery programs, it will be important to characterize their accomplishments. Pitts thinks everything is on schedule but need to resolve annual funding and get started on NEPA.

Webpage updates – Mata

Mata provided an overview of the SJRIP's new website (<https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/sj/>) that has a consistent look for both recovery programs. It includes a calendar covering both recovery programs. Mata thanked work from Kayla Kelley, Melanie Fischer, Julie Stahli, Yannick Edaye, and Mike Gross to put the website together.

Davis asked is there was a way to track website usage. Mata will look into metrics that might be available to track website usage and traffic

Next CC meeting to approve annual workplan – Gilbert

The next CC meetings are scheduled for 30 June 1:30 – 3:00 pm and 3 August 2022 from 8:00 am-12:00 pm. Draft future time and cost estimates for the draft Colorado Pikeminnow Recovery Plan will be reviewed at the June meeting. Approval of the FY2023 Annual Work Plan will be the primary item for discussion for the August meeting.

ACTIONS ITEMS FROM 18 MAY 2022 COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

- 1) The CC is in the process of voting to invite the NPS as a signatory participate.
 - a) Mata will follow up with Chris Kelleher for Utah's position.
- 2) The CC will provide comments to Tildon Jones on the draft Colorado Pikeminnow Recovery Plan by the end of May.
- 3) Tildon Jones will prepare draft time and cost estimates for the San Juan Program for inclusion in the Colorado Pikeminnow Recovery Plan to be discussed at the 30 June CC meeting.
- 4) Mata will share her Annual Meeting presentation with the CC.
- 5) Mata will coordinate with outstanding parties on participation in the Nonnative Fish Stocking Cooperative Agreement.