

## WATER ACQUISITION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY 2/4/98

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*BA/WTR*

*SP-30(B)33.6.*

*Mail Stop 60189*

Memorandum

To: Water Acquisition Committee

From: George Smith, Chairman, Water Acquisition Committee

Subject: Water Acquisition Committee Meeting Notes, February 4, 1998

The Water Acquisition Committee met to review the revised draft RIPRAP and the draft Program Guidance (Drafts). Present at the meeting were George Smith, Chairman; Bob Norman, Vice Chairman; Tom Pitts; Ray Tenney; Randy Seaholm; Sue Uppendahl; Angela Kantola; Brent Uilenberg; Mark Uppendahl; Robert Wigington; and Henry Maddux.

Review of WAC Annual Project Reports

Projects were reviewed and only minor typographical errors were corrected. Angela reminded the group that in the future, the project summary needs to be a good standalone summary of the project goals and results.

Review of the Program Guidance and RIPRAP

The Water Acquisition Committee review of the RIPRAP was comprehensive, and a small number of items were identified that were out of sequence or needed updating to reflect the current direction of the Recovery Program. I have attempted to summarize the proposed changes and to summarize the discussions in the attached Memorandum to the Management Committee. CWCB staff also proposed a number of changes to the RIPRAP to make the RIPRAP deadlines reflect recent changes in the Colorado Instream Flow Program and to make the filing process more sequential. CWCB staff will forward suggested changes in the RIPRAP directly to the Management Committee.

Review of the Grand Valley Water Management EA

The WAC generally reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for Grand Valley Water and found the document to be well written, and complimented Reclamation on the content and general appearance of the Draft. The major outstanding issues are 1) the length of the contract with Public Service, and 2) the protection of the water in excess of the demand of the Public Service Power Plant. The following options were discussed:

- ◇ Forbearance agreements with the major water users that could tap the unprotected releases;
- ◇ Change the water right decree for Green Mountain reservoir;
- ◇ Develop a new power plant in the Grand Valley;
- ◇ Deliver the water to the Grand Valley Project to operate a fish screen; and
- ◇ Have the Colorado Attorney General and DOJ address the issue.

Tom Pitts suggested that the issue may be easier to solve when the issue is a major part of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative under the Colorado Programmatic Biological Opinion. The WAC set a tentative meeting date in May to deal with this issue and any others that might come out of the Programmatic BO.

#### Coordinated Reservoir Operations 15-Mile Reach Channel Monitoring

During a 1997 meeting of the Biology Committee, Tom Pitts asked the Coordinated Reservoirs Work Group (CROS) to review the Scope of Work submitted to the Recovery Program for channel monitoring in the 15-Mile Reach. Malcolm Wilson convened several meetings of the CROS group, which reviewed the Scope of Work and offered the comments provided in the attached letter. The WAC discussed the letter and requested that the Scope of Work be modified to concentrate work on the development of a matrix, ( similar matrix to the one attached), and that the first year of the research be directed to collection of data to fill out the matrix. The modifications to the work should be developed with input from the WAC and the Biology Committee. The WAC Chairman was directed to meet with the principals involved and redirect the FY-98 work to develop the matrix and collect data need to fill out the matrix.

#### Other Issues

Utah flow protection issues were discussed, and Robert Wigington asked that the Program begin to track how Utah is to assign the 400,000 acre-feet of water from Flaming Gorge. Henry Maddux will prepare a letter to Utah inquiring how the rights will be assigned. The Chairman suggested that a future meeting of the WAC be held in Utah in conjunction with a Management Committee Meeting.

### Jensen USGS Gage Temperature Probe

The WAC also discussed adding a new project to the guidance for the placement of a temperature probe on the Jensen USGS gage. The temperature measurements were dropped by Reclamation in 1998, but several program biologists have expressed an interest in the Recovery Program reinstating temperature measurements. The WAC directed the WAC Chairman to develop a fact sheet and analysis of a USGS temperature probe vs. a Service, Division of Water Resources, thermograph at the gage site.

### Yampa Green Sediment Monitoring

The Recovery Program has been informed by USGS that they have funds available to match the \$25,000 that the Recovery Program has dedicated to the Green and Yampa River sediment monitoring program. The WAC recommended that the Scope of Work be revised to reflect the match, and that a source of non-federal funds be identified for the match, which is a USGS requirement.

### Installation of a Gage at the Lower End of the 15-Mile Reach

Randy Seaholm raised the issue of placing a permanent USGS gage at the lower end of the 15-Mile Reach to facilitate administration of the 300 cfs Instream flow water right. The WAC discussed the need for such a gage and decided that a gage is currently not needed but may be needed in the future if new water use develops in the Reach.

### Conditional Water Rights

The WAC discussed several references in the RIPRAP to the "assess need for retirement of conditional water rights." The WAC noted that this task is behind schedule and needs to be resolved. Robert Wigington recalled that Peter Evans, Windy Wise, Randy Seaholm, Robert Wigington, David Harrison, and Eric Kuhn were going to meet to address the issue. Randy Seaholm related that, to date, nothing had been done except some informal staff discussions at the CWCB. Tom Pitts suggested that the group identified above flush out tasks to be included in FY-99 scopes of work, or develop a rationale for why the item should be removed from the RIPRAP. Randy Seaholm suggested that the group meet to do an assessment of the pros and cons of the handling of conditional rights in the current Colorado water right system, and then decide if anything additional needs to be done. Tom Pitts requested that the WAC Chairman draft a letter describing the issue, and schedule a meeting for the work group to address the issue.

The next meeting of the WAC was set for July 9, 1998, for 9:30 a.m. at the Service office in Lakewood. A tentative meeting date of May 19, 1998, was set to work on any issues that might come out of the Colorado River Programmatic Biological Opinion.

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**WATER ACQUISITION COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON DRAFT RIPRAP AND PROGRAM  
GUIDANCE  
2/4/98**

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Memorandum

To: Management Committee, Water Acquisition Committee

From: Chairman Water Acquisition Committee

Subject: Comments on Draft RIPRAP and Program Guidance

The Water Acquisition Committee met on February 4 to review the draft revised RIPRAP and the draft Program Guidance (Drafts). The Water Acquisition Committee review of the RIPRAP was comprehensive and a small number of items were identified which were out of sequence or needed updating to reflect the current direction of the Recovery Program. I have attempted to summarize these proposed changes and summarize the discussions. Next Water Acquisition Committee meeting was scheduled for July 9, 1998 at FWS. A tentative meeting date of May 19, 1998 was set to work on any issues that might come out of the Colorado River Programmatic Biological Opinion.

#### PROGRAM GUIDANCE

9HMG/91-- 15-Mile Reach Gaging: The need to place a permanent USGS gage at the lower end of the 15-Mile-Reach to facilitate administration of the 300 cfs Instream flow water right was discussed. The WAC agreed that a gage is currently not needed but may be needed in the future if new water use develops in the reach.

85 HMG/9801 15-Mile Reach Channel Monitoring: The WAC requested that the guidance be modified as follows. The Scope of Work should be modified to concentrate work on the development of data to fill out the matrix which will be developed in the first year of the research. The scope of work should be modified with the input of the WAC and Biology Committee. (A discussion of this change is presented in the WAC meeting notes, see attachment)

The WAC also discussed adding a new project to the guidance for the placement of a temperature probe on the Jensen USGS gage. The temperature measurements were dropped by Reclamation in 1998 and several program biologists have expressed an interest in the Recovery Program re-instituting temperature measurements. The WAC directed the WAC Chairman to develop a fact sheet and analysis of a USGS temperature probe vs just having the Service (Water Resources) place a thermograph at the gage site.

Proposed RIPRAP Revisions

**Page Task Description of Proposed Change**

20. I.B.3 Date Changed to 8/98. The WAC Chairman will setup a small group to get this issue resolved (provide recommendations).

26. I.A.3.c. Begin 10/98 Revise text to "provide Winter and Spring flows pursuant to the BO."

I.A4a(3) The Service will draft a letter asking Utah how it plans to address this issue.

27. Ia4b(3) Delete x in FY98 (based on revised Flaming Gorge opinion schedule).

I.B.(3)c Delete x in FY98

31. I.A.4.b.(3) Change Date to 3/01 (Colorado under separate cover will rework all Colorado water right filings dates to correspond to the CWCB new rules (S.B. 64) on instream flow filings. Colorado will also re-sequence some of the filings to reflect RIP priorities.)

31. I.A.5. Delete this where it occurs throughout the RIPRAP (it predates the modifiable instream flow filing process).

**Page Task Description of Proposed Change**

34. I.C.2 Replace the word "Terminate" with "Management."

36. I.C.1.- Remove - this will be addressed with the work

b.&c proposed on Page 20 above.

40. I.a3.c- Change status to ongoing until a long term

(1)(b)I lease is in place.

I.a3.c- Change date to FY 99

(1)(b)iii)

I.a3.c- Change date to FY 99

(1)(b)vi)

41. I.A.3.c(3)(b) Delete parenthetical (no longer relevant).

41. I.A.3.c.- Change activity to "Implement evaluate process  
(3)(c)ii) and hydrology & provide an annual report"

42. I.A.3.c.- Change status to "Technical evaluation  
(3)(e)i) complete pending further discussion"

I.A.3.c.- Status change date to begin 9/98, complete  
(3)(f)iii) 4/01.

43. I.B.3.c.(2) Status change to complete. Add new item here and on page 49 to: "continue annual coordination  
(meeting 3 times per year) of Aspinnall operation until BO is completed. X all years

48. I.A.4 Change Date to 9/99

I.A.5 Change Date to 3/00

49. I.C.3.b.(1) Status change to complete. Add new line as above in I.B.3.c.(2)

I.C.3.d.(2) Change date to 4/00

I.C.3.d.(3) Delete x in 99. Change status to begin 4/00, ongoing.

50. II.B.1.f. Change status to ongoing.

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