

Water Acquisition Committee
Final Conference Call Summary
October 12, 2010

Participants: Tom Pitts, Dan Luecke, Matt Lindon, Mike Roberts, Bart Miller, Michelle Garrison, John Shields, Jana Mohrman, Leslie James, Tom Chart, and Angela Kantola.

Assignments are indicated in the document in bold, preceded by a ">".

CONVENE at 2:00 pm

1. Review/modify agenda – The agenda was modified as it appears below. Jana will send out an e-mail about the Grand Valley Water Users meeting, which likely will be December 1.
2. Approve meeting notes from August 5, 2010 – The Committee had no changes to the draft summary.
3. Utah's WAT updates – Matt Lindon described Utah's development of their Green River flow protection work plan. The narrative format for this seven-point 3-5 year work plan has been submitted. A key element of the plan is to legally protect a contract release of 86,000 af/year from Flaming Gorge Reservoir to Lake Powell for the St. George pipeline with flexibility to release that water when needed for the fish. This amount would meet minimum flow recommendations. They also are looking at delivering on a 10-year running average which should help meet the mid and some of the peak-flow ranges. The work plan involves 1) modeling by Reclamation, and 2) although a water service contract with Reclamation may be employed, the proposal may require action by the Utah Legislature to protect the flows (could take 2-3 years), which would be attached to the St. George Development Act. Utah intends to cooperate with the other States on this, as flows from the Yampa River will be an important consideration, for example. Bart Miller asked if Utah is still contemplating other avenues of flow protection. Matt described other options they've considered and said that he believes those are still on the table; the modeling results for the "St. George" option will help clarify whether and what other options might be pursued. Matt said the proposal to move the Blue Castle water right upstream is still pending and he doesn't know how the work plan will affect that, or vice versa. Bart asked if there still opportunities to provide input. At this point, the WAC needs to provide feedback to go to the Management Committee for their review and feedback. **>Jana will send e-mail; feedback to her, she'll summarize and send to MC. Your comments are due to Jana October 20th.**

Discontinuation of FWS objections to water rights – Jana said the Service has decided not to file any more objections due to the mixed message it sends in light of the Program's commitment to recover the fish while water use and development continue. Jana said the Service would like to ask Utah not to make a decision on rights like Blue Castle until the model results are in. Matt said hopefully the model results will be available soon enough for the State Engineer to take those into consideration.

4. Tom Pitts' updates:

- 10,825 update – Requirement of 15-Mile Reach PBO is to replace the Ruedi water w/ permanent source. Proposal is half from Ruedi and the other part from Lake Granby based on conversion of an old irrigation water right. Process has been on hold due to need for legislation and other concerns, but is moving again. Report on hydrologic impacts has been drafted. The current schedule is to have a draft EA for internal review by October 28, release for public comment in late December/early January, with public meetings in January in Granby and Glenwood Springs. A continued issue of concern is the folks in the Basalt area are impacts of flows interfering with angling on the Frying Pan.
- Ruedi legislation update – A 40-year water service contract has been proposed which is acceptable to West Slope interests, but would like some legislation that would make that contract permanent, which likely will be introduced late this year or early next year.
- CFOPS update – Michelle said they're re-staffed and should 2008 & 2009 CROS reports out by end of October.

5. Open discussion on recent visit to Green River floodplain sites – Jana described the floodplain tour attended by the Biology Committee as well as Water Resource folks from Utah. Tom Chart said it was timely with floodplain synthesis currently in peer review. The Program is looking at how these sites behave and what our options are for future management. It was good for folks to meet Ryan Mollnow new Refuge Manager and hear some of his thoughts on floodplain management; Tom Pitts heard good ideas for how the floodplains can be managed to further help the fish (e.g., a control structure on the downstream end of Thunder Ranch); he thinks we need to get those ideas into a more concrete fleshed-out plans so we can get them implemented. Tom Chart agreed, noted that previous docs on floodplain management (Fredrickson, and Modde) will be useful. We can take the new info and the floodplain synthesis and Modde's draft plan into a more functional document which can feed into the RIPRAP.

6. USGS Sediment Transport Report (85F) – Jana outlined the schedule for review and revision of this report. The next phase likely will be an effort by consultants like Kirk LaGory, Paul von Guerard, and/or Pitlick to more clearly link the results to our flow recommendations and biology.

- Cory should have the comments addressed by Dec. 1
- Release of draft revised report to USGS Editorial review and to Program Staff for review January 3. At this point, the dates to follow can be firmed up.
- **Revised Draft schedule: Recovery Program's 2nd review before the report goes to the USGS Editorial review. In this scenario the PD would send the updated version to the WAC/BC for final review after Jan 3, then have a Webinar (with peer reviewers invited) a couple of weeks later. The WAC/BC feedback during webinar or/ no later than 1 week after Webinar. Cory would make any needed revisions, then send to USGS editorial (30 days), then revise based on USGS review and send to BC/WAC for final approval. Revise dates based on above option.**
- Cory Williams believes the USGS provided the deliverables described in the SOW.
Technical Work:
 - Cory will check on Stats comparison between two-part model and Eq used in report
 - Cory added analysis of supply limitations using hysteresis
 - Cory will respond to 3 technical reviews (von Guerard, Pitlick, Wright) in USGS review Process and incorporate changes into report as appropriate from combination of technical review and Cooperator review (Mussetter, LaGory/other, Luecke/Bledsoe, Pitts).

7. OMID – Michelle said the State has legislated 1.5 million for the O&M capital fund; Brent working on agreement(s) and expects to have something to Interior solicitors and Colorado soon.

8. Tusher Wash (Bob Norman) Tom Chart said he's received next level of analysis Kevin working on regarding entrainment and potential mortality rates. Will go out to the BC subgroup this week and schedule a conference call. BC tasked to make a recommendation to the MC by end of calendar year.

9. Updates

- Yampa River Depletion report is late – Michelle has taken a first look at the data (doesn't appear to be significant amount of additional depletions) and said she hopes to provide a date for the first draft out for review soon. Wyoming submitted their data in August.
- Jana and John mentioned Reclamation's 2-Year Basin Study designed to identify future (to 2060) supply and demand. The study is scheduled to be completed in January 2012. Terry Fulp and Bill Rinne have been conducting outreach meetings. **>John Shields will send the WAC a summary fact sheet.**
- USGS' Elkhead Creek Transit Loss Report is approved. The author, Barbara Ruddy, is incorporating the final edits as part of USGS internal review and should be finalized in January 2011.

10. Schedule next WAC conference call (all) – **>Jana will send out a Doodle request to schedule the next conference call one afternoon between Feb. 14 and March 4.**