

February 28, 2013, Water Acquisition Committee Webinar Summary

CONVENE 2:30 p.m.

Participants: Michelle Garrison, Tom Pitts, Dan Luecke, Tom Chart, Brent Uilenberg, Bob Norman, John Shields, Jana Mohrman, James Greer, Ray Tenney, Gene Shawcroft, Robert (Bob) Rice, Angela Kantola

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

- 1) **Review/modify agenda and 3/2/12 meeting summary** – The Committee had no changes to the 2012 meeting summary at this time, but Tom Pitts said he hadn't yet reviewed it.
- 2) **Flow recommendation approval process is finalized**, Tom Chart said the BC, MC and WAC have approved this. The Program Director's office has finalized it and will post it to the web within the next week or so.
- 3) **Price River Tom Chart position paper** for minimum flow management is complete and has been posted to the web: <http://www.coloradoriverrecovery.org/documents-publications/technical-reports/isf/PriceRiverflowsJune2012.docx>
- 4) **Flaming Gorge Spring Flow Request** – Tom Chart said he sent the request for 2013 Green River Spring Flow Request to Regional Director Walkoviak on February 26, 2013.
- 5) **Green River Flow protection** – Utah has refined and completed their water rights model for the Green River from Flaming Gorge to the confluence of the Colorado River based on historical data (1970-2005). Additional runs are still pending from Reclamation. Reclamation is incorporating some of the Basin Study model into the Flaming Gorge Operations model and can't provide the information until it's thoroughly vetted and the model is peer-reviewed (slated for March). Utah is considering getting the data directly from the Basin Study model (although this will take some work and may not achieve the same level of accuracy). The GRUWAT will discuss this on their next call (likely at the end of April; >**Jana** will send a Doodle request to schedule this). Jana noted that the Flaming Gorge releases are key to this process.
- 6) **OMID** – Brent said they're working to complete the EA (anticipated early April, and then it will go out for 30-day review). This should allow Reclamation to issue a construction contract late in the FY for check structures 1 & 2. Likely this will be a 4-year construction period beginning in 2016. However, Bob Norman said he thinks we'll start seeing the operational benefits as soon as the check structures are completed.
- 7) **Grand Valley Project** – Brent Uilenberg said Dick Proctor has retired; the Committee agreed that the Program will want to acknowledge his contributions. Kevin Conrad will be acting General Manager for GVWUA.

- 8) **10825 & CFOPS** – The Ruedi agreements are signed, but the Granby 5412 agreements are still in process. The “if and when” agreement from Green Mountain isn’t being pursued, so the alternative of a flexible (instead of fixed) release from Granby is being considered. Dan Luecke said that in the PBO, this is water the Service controls, so it’s important not to override that. Jana thinks the Service would still control this. Tom Pitts said CFOPS is behind schedule, but the 10,825 process will simplify and clarify the CFOPS report as to whether the Service pools can be used to augment the spring peak, can water physically and legally be exchanged among reservoirs. Tom hopes to wrap this up by mid-year.
- 9) **White River flow recommendation update** – The Program office is updating a draft flow recommendation; it will be presented with the management plan. A working group has been assembled to develop the Management Plan, including representatives from Colorado (CWCB), Utah, TNC, WRA, the Water Users, the Program Office, and, hopefully, the River District.

****DRAFT**** Elements of the work plan for the White River Management Plan
(still subject to scheduling and funding) are:

Before Outside Consultant Under Contract

- Spring 2013: Get Recovery Program approval for this approach
- Spring 2013: Public meetings with stakeholders – meet with the Yampa/White River Roundtable ([next meeting is 4/17/13](#)) to communicate proposed approach, i.e., contents of this Recovery Program approved SOW.
- Spring 2013: Workshop on StateMod and initial work plan – CWCB/PDO
- Spring 2013: Update the 2011 draft White River flow recommendations to strengthen biological / hydrologic links. (PDO, USFWS, UDWR)
- Spring / Summer 2013: Develop a suite of recovery actions needed to offset historical and future water development - Work Group (USFWS will lead this activity)
- Spring / Summer 2013: Develop future water demand scenarios – CWCB (White River Roundtable / PDO / USFWS)

After Outside Consultant is Funded and Under Contract

- Summer/Fall 2013: Select tool and alternatives for scenarios – Consultant/Work Group
- Fall 2013: Conduct scenario analysis – Consultant
- Winter 2014: Draft Management Plan – Consultant and PDO
- Spring 2014: Review Management Plan and flow recommendations – Work Group
- Spring / Summer 2014: Public meetings with stakeholders
- Summer 2014: Finalize management plan and flow recommendations – Recovery Program
- Fall 2014: Develop cooperative agreement and initiate NEPA compliance. USFWS drafts PBO concurrently.
- Spring 2015: Complete NEPA; USFWS completes PBO.

- 10) **USGS Sediment Transport Report (85F)** – The USGS published the sediment report. “Application of Sediment Characteristics and Transport Conditions to Resource Management in Selected Main-Stem Reaches of the Upper Colorado River, Colorado and Utah, 1965–2007”

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5195/> The PDO is trying to assemble a group of experts (Kirk LaGory, John Pitlick, Cory Williams, Jack Schmidt, Bob Mussels, Tom Chart, Tom Pitts, Toby Minear (replacing Scott Wright of the USGS)) to assist with interpretation of the sediment study's findings this spring. Tom Pitts clarified that Cory's report provides a *methodology* to evaluate flow recommendations, but didn't actually evaluate the recommendations, so the charge to the group is to help us work out how to collect the data and evaluate the recommendations.

Review of draft RIPRAP revisions & assessment and FY14-15 Program Guidance

- RIPRAP text
 - With regard to developing flow recommendations in the Colorado River below Green River, Tom Chart said there's no gaging point below Cisco to help measure flows. No depletions occur in that stretch, but below the Green River gage, there's a potential depletion from the proposed Blue Castle nuclear plant (this is being considered in Utah's modeling). The St. George Pipeline comes out of the Lake Powell. Bob Norman asked if there's expanded use (Viterri farms) being considered at Tusher; James Greer said this is being considered in the model, also). >**The Program Director's office** will talk to the Service about this before the April Management Committee meeting and determine appropriate dates for the RIPRAP items related to identifying instream flow recommendation and whether the combination of Colorado and Green River flows below the confluence are adequate for recovery.
 - Dan Luecke agreed it would be good for Robert Wigington and Tom Pitts to discuss the water acquisition section and then submit another draft for the Water Acquisition Committee's review (to be completed by March 15). >**Dan** will check with Robert, and then >**Jana** will send a doodle request to Robert, Tom Pitts, and Angela to do a short webinar to resolve.
 - RIPRAP tables
 - Tom Pitts asked the >**PD's office** to clarify meaning of "pending," "ongoing," "and "on hold" and whether or not dates are included with these designations (since this RIPRAP holds us to ESA compliance).
 - Program Guidance text – No changes
 - Program Guidance tables – Added item to develop a scope of work to implement recommendations in the Price River position paper.
- 11) **Schedule next meeting and suggest agenda items** – The Committee will need to review the draft FY14-15 work plan in late summer. >When it gets a little closer, **Jana** will send out a Doodle request to schedule a webinar in that timeframe.

ADJOURN 5:00 p.m.