

**CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY**  
**Colorado River Management Committee**  
**January 18, 2005**

Participants: See Attachment 1  
Assignments are highlighted in the text.

CONVENE - 1:10 p.m.

Discussion of draft "Request for Increased Authorization and Extension of Time for Construction for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Species Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program." This document is a proposal by some of the non-federal parties to the Program to seek additional authorization for capital expenditures for the Upper Basin Program in the amount of \$12.5 million, and time extensions for construction activities for both the Upper Basin and San Juan activities. The estimate is based on Reclamation's latest estimate of the cost to complete the capital projects. In addition, the proposal would extend the authorized time period for construction from FY 2008 through FY 2010. John Shields said the Management Committee was asked at the October 2004 Implementation Committee meeting to develop a strategy for addressing the capital funds shortfall, and the ad hoc group appointed by the Management Committee now wishes to provide their recommendations and have an Implementation Committee discussion of these matters. The ad hoc committee recommends seeking Congressional support for the proposal before the regular March D.C. briefing trip, with the non-Federal Program participants scheduling a trip during the second week of February. Tom Iseman emphasized his concern that the proposal does not include cost-sharing from the States and power revenues, as the environmental groups believe it should. John Shields replied that there simply seems to be no ability on behalf of power or the States to contribute additional cost-sharing. Further, actual input from the States and power has been considerably greater than originally anticipated in PL106-392. Tom Iseman said he understands State budgets and power revenues are tight, but so is the Federal budget. Further, not including cost-sharing may bear negatively on the potential success for this request. Tom Pitts said he still thinks this proposal is our best shot (and he expects power users would oppose the proposal if it included a power cost-share). Leslie James said that the drought has continued, the CRSP power rate was increased in 2002, deliveries have been cut back, and another rate increase was just proposed in the Federal Register today. John Reber echoed Tom Iseman's concerns, but said he recognizes that the States and power can't provide additional cost-sharing and we need the additional capital funds and time extension to accomplish our mission. John suggested that we may need to consider what other alternatives are available if this proposal isn't supported in Congress. Dave Mazour agreed with the need for a contingency plan, saying their Congressional delegation has acknowledged that this will be a difficult proposal to get passed. Leslie asked if there have been discussions in Interior on this (perhaps re-prioritizing existing budget items). Tom Pitts noted that Reclamation would still need the authority to spend funds on this Program. John Shields pointed out that the proposal really only *continues* existing Federal appropriations for two more years (> Tom Pitts will include that point in the proposal document). Tom Iseman said the environmental groups would propose a cost-sharing alternative of \$7M in Federal appropriations, \$2.5M from power, and \$2.5M from the States, but he recognizes that the States and power can't support that. Tom said the environmental groups will

look for additional solutions and won't block this proposal, but they are abstaining from supporting the proposal without a cost-sharing component. John Shields noted that we didn't have complete concurrence on what became PL 106-392, and he hopes we can continue to work together in the same way we did at that time. Tom Iseman affirmed that the environmental groups will continue to work with the Program and said Dan Luecke will participate in the Implementation Committee conference call on Monday.

Tom Pitts said he wants to be sure he's correctly reflected the financial situation of non-Federal Program participants section right. >Leslie James will provide numbers regarding power rate increases, etc. Tom also will add the information about Colorado's \$95M and \$246m budget cuts. Sherm Hoskins said Utah is in pretty good shape. >Dave Mazour and Leslie will provide additional information from CREDA by the end of the week.

Bob Muth said he wants to make sure these are the most accurate possible cost estimates; >Bob and Brent will meet Wednesday afternoon to review those. Tom Iseman asked about the status of the Elkhead screen, and Bob Muth said the outlets will be screened, but at this point, the Biology Committee has agreed that there's no need for a post-construction spillway screen. Tom Iseman said if there's a potential need for a spillway screen at some point, then the cost should be considered in this funding request. If the need for a screen is unlikely, then he doesn't believe it needs to be included.

Tom Pitts said he'll need to format the proposal document to make it user-friendly (Debbie Felker may help with this). The only other materials they would need for the February trip would be the fish magnets.

The Implementation Committee will use the Service phone bridge for next week's call; >Angela Kantola will send information to Tom Pitts to send to Implementation and Management committee members with the proposal. The call will be Monday, January 24 at 9 a.m.

If the Implementation Committee approves the proposal, the non-Federal Program participants will schedule meetings in Washington, D.C. February 7, 8, 9 (and 10, if needed), so they will proceed with planning those appointments. >Kathy Wall will check on rooms at Capitol Hill suites and get that information to John Shields and Tom Pitts. >Tom Pitts will talk with Marcus of CUP about participating. >Tom Pitts will try to set up a meeting with Keyes and maybe Limbaugh and also ask who they want to attend the Interior meeting (e.g. Weimer). The basic schedule would be a half hour for each appointment, with Reclamation and Interior Monday morning, the committees on Monday afternoon, the House on Tuesday (Colorado until ~1:30, then Utah after that [perhaps a joint meeting], then Wyoming at 4:30) (New Mexico will be Thursday morning), the Senate on Wednesday morning (Colorado 9:00 -10:30, Utah 10:30 - noon, New Mexico 1:00-2:30, and Wyoming 2:30 - 3:30). With the visitor center construction, it takes ~15 min to get between the House and Senate side of the hill. The group will try to make time to meet with the Service (>Bob Muth will suggest a contact.) >Tom Pitts will talk Randy Kirkpatrick of New Mexico, also (Domenici's support for this proposal will be needed). >Tom Blickensderfer will talk to the Colorado delegation. >Tom Pitts will contact the House and Senate committees. >Robert King will contact the Utah delegation. >John Shields will coordinate the appointments (everyone is to e-mail him as they set up appointments and he'll

keep the itinerary). John Shields also recommended meeting with the Western Caucus. >Tom Blickensderfer will contact Joel Harris. The group's focus will be on meeting with legislative folks, however. Tom Pitts said he doesn't expect to be available Thursday (Feb. 9) afternoon, but he can be flexible, if need be.

>Angela Kantola will post summary of this call to the listserver

ADJOURN: 2:00 p.m. (Discussion of scheduling appointments continued a little longer.)

**Colorado River Management Committee Conference Call  
January 18, 2005**

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg	Bureau of Reclamation
Sherm Hoskins and Robert King	Utah Department Of Natural Resources
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
Julie Lyke for Mary Henry	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gary Burton	Western Area Power Administration
Dave Mazour	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
John Reber	National Park Service
Tom Iseman	The Nature Conservancy
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Tom Blickensderfer	State of Colorado

Nonvoting Member:

Bob Muth	Recovery Program Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Recovery Program Staff:

Angela Kantola	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Debbie Felker	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Others

Leslie James	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
Matthew Andersen	Utah Wildlife Resources
Heather Patnow	Western Area Power Administration