

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Denver, Colorado

June 13, 2006

CONVENE: 10:00 a.m.

1. Introductions, review/modify agenda and time allocations, and appoint a timekeeper - The agenda was modified as it appears below. Dave Speas noted that Kevin Gelwicks of Wyoming is the new Biology Committee chair.
2. Approve February 28, 2006 meeting and April 11, 2006 conference call summaries and review assignments - Angela Kantola said minor technical corrections were made to the February 28, 2006 meeting summary; > she'll post the revised summary to the listserver (*done*). Angela Kantola will incorporate Randy Peterson's recommended changes to the April 11, 2006 conference call and post the revised summary to the listserver (*done*).
3. Flaming Gorge operations - Randy Peterson gave an update on this year's operation. In mid-February, snowpack was 112% (on the wet end of average) and they decided to target 18,600 cfs for 2 weeks. The forecast for May dropped to 80%, but they were able to use one bypass tube (2,000 cfs) to target 18,600 cfs for one day (the river reached 18,700 at Jensen and increased to 18,950 the following day from runoff in the Yampa). Lessons learned: 1) we should have more broadly considered the hydrologic contingencies (Leslie James agreed); and 2) the TWG functioned well. Dave Speas said the entrainment studies went well and noted that wild larvae were present in the system during the peak.
4. RIPRAP Revision - Leslie James said she supports the changes Gary Burton suggested and expressed concern regarding the Service's recommended revisions to those changes. Gary said the items he suggested as additions were called out in the ROD and Western thus believes they are a high priority appropriately tracked in the RIPRAP. Tom Pitts asked about the schedule for these items. Gary said they'd like to see item I.D.4.d (studies associated with floodplain inundation) addressed as soon as possible. Larry Gamble said the Service would prefer to see the study plan completed before adding items to the RIPRAP (which will help identify the schedule and agencies responsible). John questioned adding item I.D.3. (to develop a process for operating the selective withdrawal structure), since the ROD says *Reclamation* will develop that process; Gary said he thinks this will be an integrated effort between Reclamation and the Program. John noted the selective withdrawal structure has been in place since before the inception of the Program, and questioned whether this needs to be addressed in the RIPRAP. Dave Speas said the Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group has been addressing the temperature recommendations. Tom Pitts asked who is responsible for developing the study plan; Bob Muth said he, Gary Burton, Dave Speas, Tom Chart, Kirk LaGory, and Rich Valdez are developing the plan. Bob said he'd like to have that core group meet within the next month for 2-3 days to develop the draft and provide it for review by August 1. Tom Pitts agreed, saying he'd prefer to review a draft of the study plan and then decide what goes into the RIPRAP (if need be, we can amend the RIPRAP in the fall). Randy Peterson agreed with the schedule to get the plan done sooner so that we'll have it ready for next spring. John Shields said Wyoming supports the changes the Service proposed; emphasized that the study plan needs to address not only *what* needs to

be done, but also *who* needs to do it (including coordination, etc). Therefore, John proposed revising the RIPRAP now consistent with the Service's proposal. Tom Pitts added to this proposal by recommending that the draft study plan be completed by August 1, be reviewed/revise by the Biology, Water Acquisition, and Management committees, then the Management Committee would amend the RIPRAP by September 30 to incorporate the items in the study plan (this could be included on the September 11 Implementation Committee meeting agenda). Tom Pitts recommended finalizing the RIPRAP today with I.D.1. reading "Develop study plan to evaluate flow and temperature recommendations and address ROD and BO Environmental Commitments." The Committee agreed. >Angela Kantola will finalize the RIPRAP and post it to the listserv.

5. Funding/Budget

- a. Developing a reporting process for State cost-share accounting - Brent distributed a draft capital contributions table. This table and the "credit" column of the "State Capital Funds Contributions Summary" prepared by Angela Kantola is currently the Program's only record of capital funds spent directly by the States (e.g., Utah's expenditures on Wahweap, State of Colorado on nonnative control and on Elkhead). This accounting is inadequate for tracking cost-share contributions. Equally important, state contributions and the date those contributions were made are important to the capital projects cost ceiling and indexing. (Brent explained that the entire amount of the capital projects authorization indexed for inflation, but that Federal appropriations provide the entire amount of the indexing [States and power do not pay additional for the indexing].) Therefore, Reclamation recommends the Committee develop an approval process for State expenditures, including creating a report to be updated and approved annually (after each FY's expenditures are finalized) which shows all expenditures by State, activity, year and amount spent. The Committee will need to approve historical (FY 99 - 05) expenditures to get current. >Angela, Brent, and Bob Muth will draft a recommended Program position on the funds expended and provide that draft to Colorado and Utah for review, then bring this back to the Committee for review and approval. >Tom Blickensderfer will compile the documentation for the \$251.8K in question.

Highline Lake easement - Brent Uilenberg distributed the July 7, 2004, contract that shows the Program purchased 320 acre-feet of storage in Highline Lake. On page 3-4 the contract reads: "2.A. Reclamation... shall purchase said easement... and cause to be paid to State Parks...\$150,000... in the form of credit to ... Colorado's commitment to the Recovery Program..."; and "2.B. shall pay to State Parks \$172,500 to conduct the water quality study..." So, in summary Reclamation did credit Colorado \$150,000 in capital funds for Highline Lake storage. >Brent will make sure the \$150K is not being shown as a Federal expenditure in the capital funds table.

- b. FY 06-07 work plan/budget status - Bob Muth said he approved a \$25K addition to the FY 06 sediment monitoring work (WAPA is also contributing \$15K and

USGS is providing \$75K) to develop a SWIMS (surface water modeling system) model on the Green River near Jensen (includes the razorback bar) which will help evaluate sediment, flow, and channel geomorphology. This is a demonstration model that should be portable down river (to look at backwaters downstream in the Jensen-Ouray reach, for example). A replacement motor needed for project #125 (middle Yampa nonnative fish control) may cost up to \$12K. No matching funding for the cyprinid key could be found for FY 06-07, so the Recovery Program has obligated the full amount of the FY 06-07 costs from FY 06 funds (this will provide a usable product, but probably not the full interactive key, so additional funds in the neighborhood of \$100K total will be sought for FY 08-09). Any FY 06 funds still "on the table" are still being determined and likely will be used for first-year operation and maintenance-related costs of capital projects (which would otherwise be paid from capital funds).

- c. Reclamation to Service Funding agreements - The Department of Interior is moving to a department-wide accounting system called FBMS. The Fish and Wildlife Service will begin using the system in FY10 and the Bureau of Reclamation in FY11. FBMS will apparently allow all DOI agencies to track exactly how funds are spent, and this could potentially offer an opportunity to transfer the power revenues that come to the Service under the Recovery Program without requiring the cumbersome vehicle of reimbursable agreements, thus avoiding the overhead charge. (Overhead costs are currently ~\$150K annually [and could increase after FY10 unless the Service approves the continued 50% of standard overhead rate for the Recovery Program].) If the Management Committee believes this may be worth considering, Reclamation and the Service should begin discussing the options and outlining the process for how this could work as they learn more about FBMS. Directing a portion of Program power revenues directly to the Service likely would require amendment to P.L. 106-392, but since that law says "The utilization of power revenues for annual base funding shall cease after fiscal year 2011, unless reauthorized by Congress; except that power revenues may continue to be utilized to fund the operation and maintenance of capital projects and monitoring," the Program may need to seek reauthorization of P.L. 106-392 around FY10-FY11, anyway. Clayton Palmer said there have been agreements where funds are IPAC'd directly from the Treasury power account to the Service (e.g., with the Utah ES field office), so there is precedent for this, but Western would want someone at FWS to track expenditures (as they have at Reclamation). Randy noted that the Service would have to agree there would be no overhead charge on this kind of transfer. The Committee agreed the Program Director's office should continue to explore this possibility.

6. Updates

- a. Flow and runoff conditions - Bob Muth reviewed the spring runoff charts (provided to Management Committee on June 6). We were able to do coordinated reservoir operations on the Colorado River this year which provided

~1,800 cfs to the 18,000 cfs peak (28,460 acre-feet of water was provided: 6,337 af from Ruedi Reservoir, 6,788 af from Green Mountain Reservoir, 8,989 af from Wolford Mountain Reservoir, and 6,346 af from Williams Fork Reservoir). Bob said he thinks the Service will initially recommend a base flow of ~1,200 cfs on the Colorado. The Yampa peaked at ~14,500 cfs; baseflow will hopefully be ~300 cfs. In general, peaks came ~2 weeks earlier than usual this year (the Gunnison actually peaked in mid-April). Bob noted the update he posted to the Committee (also on June 6) on the Green River entrainment study (Bob said he hopes to see the data analyzed before November). At this time, the Green River baseflow is expected to be ~1,600 cfs.

- b. Nonnative fish management activities - Bob posted an update on these activities to the Management Committee on June 7. About 500 pounds of smallmouth bass were transferred to the kids' fishing pond at the Craig Justice Center; with that pond basically at carrying capacity, the remainder of translocated fish will go to Elkhead Reservoir (the spill is passed and the outlets are screened).
- c. Capital projects
 - i. Elkhead Reservoir enlargement project - Dan Birch said snowpack was about average, but came off very quickly which allowed the contractor to get the existing spillway demolished about a month earlier than anticipated. They were able to bypass 500+cfs through the fish screens this year. The embankment work is well underway. Substantial completion of the reservoir enlargement is now expected by early November (some minor topsoil and revegetation work may still need to be done in 2007). The project is on budget (and within the Program's \$13M portion) and Dan said he doesn't expect any surprises. The Committee will plan to spend ~2 hours touring Elkhead on Tuesday, August 8 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
 - ii. Spreadsheet (June 12 draft) - Brent Uilenberg noted the spreadsheet shows the remaining \$6.084M Federal payment on Elkhead would be made in early FY 09 and that the Elkhead fish screen costs would be made this year (FY 06). Brent noted the \$256K on bottomlands restoration in FY 06 were for the repairs at Thunder Ranch. >Brent will check on the \$7K of capital funds shown for Coordinated Reservoir Operations in FY 06 (there should not have been any capital funds expenditure for this item after FY 2000). The Redlands screen worked uninterrupted throughout the runoff season, so that gives us the go ahead to remodel the GVIC fish screen using the same technology (this is not currently on the schedule until FY 08, however). >Brent will work with NFWF to get Wyoming invoiced for their FY 05 and 06 capital fund contributions. Brent asked everyone to review the draft spreadsheet carefully and let him know if they have any concerns regarding costs or scheduling.
 - iii. Tusher Wash - Brent said that if Elkhead and Price-Stubbs come in as

expected, \$5.337M will remain in our capital project ceiling.

- iv. Price-Stubbs fish passage - Schedule I construction (without the whitewater park) is now estimated at \$9.2M (up from \$5-6M from earlier estimates made prior to escalation in energy prices and competition from oil and gas). Schedule II (with the whitewater park) is estimated at \$12-13M. The construction would run 18 months from October 2006 through April 2008. Even with this schedule, the chart shows a funding deficit in FY 08, and Reclamation has alerted their regional office to this.
 - v. Grand Valley Water Management - Brent distributed a table showing results for our \$7M investment. GVWM potentially contributed ~48,000 af of water to the 15-Mile Reach in FY 05.
 - vi. Status of Water 2025 grant application for rehabilitating the Myton townsite diversion dam - Terry Hickman said they submitted their applications by the deadline and have been asked for additional information; however, funds may not be available in Water 2025 for FY 07 (Congress zeroed FY 07 funding because Water 2025 was never specifically authorized). The request was for 45% (of a total cost of ~\$375K) from Water 2025 over two years.
- d. Colorado representation on the Biology Committee - Tom Blickensderfer reported by e-mail that Tom Nesler intends to attend the July 18th Biology Committee meeting in Grand Junction and should have his replacement hired and in place for the following Biology Committee meeting.
- e. Aspinall EIS process - Brent Uilenberg said this process continues to move slowly; however, progress is being made: 1) the period of record for hydrologic evaluation has been agreed to (1937-1997) and the EIS will also address the paleohydrologic record; 2) North Fork River flows are key to meeting the Gunnison peak flow recommendations, thus an effort will be made to try to estimate the North Fork peak date (similar to matching the Yampa peak with Flaming Gorge releases); 3) development of action alternatives is ongoing; 4) the Aspinall EIS group will discuss the Gunnison River flow recommendations and table on July 11. Larry Gamble said the Service's Grand Junction office sent Reclamation a memorandum commenting on the action alternatives (the Service still believes the current flow recommendations are the best data we have at this time); >Larry will forward that letter to the Management Committee. The next cooperators meeting will be August 23. >Tom Iseman also will circulate the letter the environmental groups sent. The Gunnison PBO is in a holding pattern until more progress made on Aspinall EIS.
- f. Reports status - Angela Kantola distributed an updated reports list.
- g. Sufficient progress - Larry Gamble said the Service has been working on this memo, it should go through internal review over the next couple of weeks, then

to the listserver a list of the people who the Service has hired to work with BLM. John Shields agreed this is important and suggested we need to carefully consider all the potential impacts (depletions and beyond). Bob Muth added that there are also concerns about subsurface leases on Ouray NWR. Clearly this is a widespread and growing issue. Tom Blickensderfer said Kim Kaal of CDOW's Grand Junction office is Colorado's liaison for energy development issues. Darin Bird said they've appointed Bill James to a similar position in UDWR.

9. Public involvement in nonnative fish management - Debbie Felker said she's working with Pat Nelson and with CDOW to schedule a public meeting in the Craig area in late July or early August (maybe August 7, just before the Management Committee meeting). Attendance by any Management Committee members who can attend will be appreciated. The meeting will focus on the Program's whole recovery effort, as well as nonnative fish activities. Bob Muth said he hopes to involve the Yampa Basin Partnership, also.
10. Implementation Committee meeting agenda - Monday, September 11, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Denver near DIA. Management Committee members are strongly encouraged to have their Implementation Committee representative attend (and will let the Program Director's office know if their Implementation Committee representative cannot attend). Agenda items will include: approval of a RIPRAP amendment to address the Green River study plan; a formal decision on the Elkhead cost overrun (although the Program is only obligated to \$8.7M+5%, beyond which we could opt to accept less water instead of paying more, we anticipate but have not formally approved paying up to \$13.129M); a briefing on capital projects (what's been built, what's left, timeframe, etc.); discussion of the report by the Secretary due to Congress in 2008 and the need to extend the authorizing legislation beyond 2011 (for purposes other than monitoring and O&M); an update on species status; an update on recovery goal revision; and an update on the Aspinall EIS and Gunnison PBO. Tom Pitts suggested inviting Dave Campbell to attend and provide an update on the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program. The Committee agreed.
11. Upcoming Management Committee tasks and schedule next meeting - The Committee will tour Elkhead on Tuesday, August 8 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., meet at Carpenter Ranch after lunch, have a barbecue at the Carpenter Ranch that evening (to which we'll also invite folks from the Yampa Basin partnership), then complete the meeting Wednesday morning from 8 a.m. - noon. A public meeting on nonnative fish management activities may be scheduled in Craig the evening of August 7 to facilitate Management Committee attendance. >Debbie Felker will invite members of the Yampa Basin partnership to the barbecue on August 8 (also Congressman Salazar's, and Senators Allard and Salazar's field staff, DOW regional manager, mayor etc.). Agenda items will include: state cost-share accounting; update on the Green River study plan (draft will be out before the meeting); and preparation for the September 11 Implementation Committee meeting.

ADJOURN 4:00 p.m.

Assignments

1. Angela Kantola will post the revised meeting and conference call summaries to the listserv. *(Done)*
2. Angela Kantola will finalize the RIPRAP and post it to the listserv.
3. Angela Kantola, Brent Uilenberg, and Bob Muth will draft a recommended Program position on state capital funds expended and provide that draft to Colorado and Utah for review, then bring this back to the Committee for review and approval.
4. Tom Blickensderfer will compile the documentation for the \$251.8K pond reclamation expenditure in question on the State capital funds spreadsheet.
5. Brent Uilenberg will make sure the \$150K for storage in Highline Lake is not being shown as a Federal expenditure in the capital funds table (since it is to be credited as a Colorado capital funds expenditure).
6. Brent Uilenberg will check on the \$7K of capital funds shown for Coordinated Reservoir Operations in FY 06 on the latest capital funds spreadsheet (there should not have been any capital funds expenditure for this item after FY 2000).
7. Brent Uilenberg will work with NFWF to get Wyoming invoiced for their FY 05 and 06 capital fund contributions.
8. Larry Gamble will forward to the Committee the memorandum that the Service's Grand Junction office sent Reclamation commenting on the the Aspinall EIS action alternatives.
9. Tom Iseman also will circulate the letter the environmental groups sent on the Aspinall EIS.
10. Tom Pitts will send Debbie a copy of the letter he sent to Senator Allard thanking him for his support of the Recovery Program and using the Ditch Bill biological opinions as an example of how well the Program works.
11. John Reber will help Bob Muth and Larry Gamble draft the letter from the Recovery Program to BLM's State Directors regarding coordination on energy development review.
12. Larry Gamble will post to the listserv a list of the people who the Service has hired to work with BLM on energy.
13. Debbie Felker will invite members of the Yampa Basin Partnership to the August 8 barbecue (also Congressman Salazar's, and Senators Allard and Salazar's field staff, DOW regional manager, mayor etc.).

Attendees
Colorado River Management Committee, Denver, Colorado
June 13, 2006

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg and Randy Peterson	Bureau of Reclamation
Tom Blickensderfer	State of Colorado.
Darin Bird	State of Utah
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Larry Gamble	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Leslie James (via phone) for Dave Mazour	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
John Reber	National Park Service
Tom Iseman	The Nature Conservancy
Gary Burton and Heather Patno	Western Area Power Administration

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:

Clayton Palmer	Western Area Power Administration
Terry Hickman	Central Utah Water Conservancy District
Dave Speas (via phone)	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kathy Kitzmann	Aurora Water
Dan Birch	Colorado River Water Conservation District.