



**San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program
Biology Committee Meeting Minutes
February 15 -16, 2005**

Members Present

Chuck McAda
David Propst
Bill Miller
Ron Bliesner
Tom Wesche
Vincent Lamarra
Paul Holden
Jim Brooks
Mark McKinstry
Tom Nesler
Steve Ross, Peer Review
Ron Ryel, Peer Review
Mel Warren, Peer Review
Mark McKinstry

Representing

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Water Development Interests
Navajo Nation
Jicarilla Apache Nation
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Fishery Resources
Bureau of Reclamation
Colorado Division of Wildlife
University of New Mexico
Department of Forestry, Range Wildlife Sciences
USDA Forest Southern Research Station
Bureau of Reclamation

Program Staff

Dave Campbell
Joann Perea-Richmann

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.

Others Attending

Mike Buntjer
Dale Ryden
Jason Davis
Melissa Trammell
Steve Harris
Albert Lapahie
Ernest Teller
Sara Gottlieb
Steven Platania
Marilyn Myers
Julie Jackson
Patrick Goddard
Bahe Billey
Dave Hampton
Russell Kaskalla

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6, Colorado
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Fishery Resources
National Park Service
Southwestern Water Conservation District
Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife Department
Bureau of Indian Affairs-NIIP
University of New Mexico
University of New Mexico
US Fish and Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.
Utah DWR
Utah DWR
Bureau of Indian Affairs – NIIP
Fish and Wildlife Service, Dexter NFH & TC
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Michael Farrington	University of New Mexico
Lee Renfro	University of New Mexico
Justin Smith	University of New Mexico
W. Howard Brandenburg	University of New Mexico
Michael Golden	BIO- West Inc.
Melissa Stamp	BIO-West Inc.
Nancy Baczek	US Fish and Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Committee approved minutes for September 9, 2005 and September 30, 2005

ANNUAL PROJECT REVIEW FY04 (abstracts attached as separate files)

Presentations were provided for all FY 2004 Program funded projects.

PEER REVIEW COMMENTS

Steve Ross

- Likes the transition to a more quantitative approach, less subjective.
- Dale's work on river trends was good.

Melvin Warren

- Error bars need to be consistent and described.
- Dale's data is good and would lend itself well for a stock assessment similar to the ones used in fisheries management.
- Need to compile mark/recapture data and analyses
- Did not understand what the YOY/small bodied fish monitoring project was designed to accomplish. Sampling should be stratified by habitat.

Ron Ryel

- Why are we losing large amounts of young pikeminnow?
- What is the survival rate? Once we get to year three, if PM crash is it a function of food base?
- What do we need to do to meet our stocking objectives? Should we be getting more than 300,000 to account for losses?
- Are there other sources of funds for fish?

CONTINUATION OF MR. PITLICK BEING A PEER REVIEWER

The committee agreed to keep Dr. Pitlick as a Peer Review member. It was also stated that his feedback and attendance to some of the meetings would be expected. The committee will reevaluate his status at a future date.

DATA QUALITY ACT AND WHAT IT MIGHT MEAN TO SJRIP (MARK MCKINSTRY-BUREAU OF

RECLAMATION BOR) Mark M. informed the committee about the "Data Quality Act." He would like to discuss the Act in more detail and how it affects the Program at a future meeting.

DISCUSS WORK PLAN FOR 2006

The committee agreed that ongoing projects with current BR agreements will continue in FY06 and until their agreements expire. Mark M. stated that he would provide a copy of the memo prepared by BoR's Acquisitions Management Division (memo attached.) explaining the new process of RFPs. Mark M. and

David C. will compose a DRAFT list on the RFP process. It was also mentioned by Chuck McAda that prioritizing of projects will have to be done in the near future.

FY05 FUNDING

Shortfall area identified in the FY05 budget is \$72,000 for Dexter O&M (for production of razorback suckers). The contract for Dexter would have to be reviewed to see if this could be added or modified. Another option will be to look into using Fish and Wildlife Foundation Funds (Capital). Note – The coordination committee did not agree with using capital funds for O&M at Dexter; carry over funds will be used in FY05 and Dexter O&M will be included in base funds for FY06 and beyond.

OVERVIEW OF THREE SPECIES CONSERVATION PLAN AND NM ROUNDTAIL CHUB RECOVERY PLAN (STEPHANIE CARMEN WITH THE STATE GAME AND FISH OFFICE)

Agreement attached
Presentation by Stephanie Carmen, NM. The Roundtail Chub is currently under review to be placed on the endangered species list.

ANIMAS UPDATE

BoR came to BC with a request to continue support continued funding of fisheries surveys of the Animas River. The BC wanted to see what's happening with this project before making their decision. Kirk Lashmett gave an update of the project. BoR will have a report out about mid April.

DISCUSSION ON RECOMMENDATION FOR WEST AVOCET POND REHABILITATION

Ron Bliesner presented a proposal to rehabilitate and upgrade avocet west rearing pond. This proposal can be paid out of the Fish and Wildlife Foundation funds (capital funds). The proposal would allow for the cleaning and shaping of avocet west rearing pond, drainage work at the six-pack ponds, a drain line for avocet west pond and fencing. The committee agreed that these problems needed to be fixed. Project cost \$133,300.00. Chuck McAda will recommend funding this project at the next Coordination Committee meeting.

HOGBACK DIVERSION

After the presentation by Platania and Renfro, the committee agreed to recommend to the Coordination Committee to initiate the design and investigation for screening Hogback diversion. Platania will evaluate possible modifications to the study proposal to investigate the need for screening at other sites.

INTEGRATION REPORT UPDATES (BILL MILLER-MILLER ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS, INC.) Dr. Miller will update the Draft Integration Report and get it out to the BC by mid March. It was also stated that FWS Program staff will be working on updating the Long Range Plan and Program Document.

FLOW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MODEL RUNS

No decision forthcoming until after the completion of the Integration Report.

Next meeting to be determined as a Conference Call or Physical Meeting: Note physical meeting is needed.

Durango Arts Center, 820 East 2nd Ave., Durango, CO – April 5, 2005, 8 am – 3:30 pm

Agenda Items: FY2006 Work Plan; feedback on RFPs outline and review Final Draft Integration Plan

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.