



**SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN RECOVERY
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (SJ RIP)
COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING
12 December 2022
MEETING SUMMARY**

Coordination Committee (CC) Members:	Representing
Deb Hill (Alternate Chair)	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
Jenny Dumas (Alternate)	Jicarilla Apache Nation
Crystal Tulley-Cordova	Navajo Nation
Lisa Yellow Eagle	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Michelle Garrison	State of Colorado
Colleen Cunningham (Alternate)	State of New Mexico
Joseph Trungale	The Nature Conservancy
Rudy Keedah	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Lee Traynham	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Dale Ryden	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
Absent	US Bureau of Land Management
Peter Ortego	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Tom Pitts	Water Development Interests

Program Office (PO):	Representing
Melissa Mata, Program Coordinator	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Eliza Gilbert, Assistant Program Coordinator	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Scott Durst, Science Coordinator	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Raphaela Ware, Program Biologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Other Interested Parties:	Representing:
Jacob Mazzone, BC member	Jicarilla Apache Nation
Michelle Yazzie, CC alternate	Navajo Nation
Bill Miller, BC member	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Kara Scheel	State of Colorado
Emily Halvorsen	State of Colorado
Ali Effati	State of New Mexico
Chris Kitcheyan	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Melissa Trammel	National Park Service
Mark McKinstry	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Susan Behery	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Jason Davis (CC Chair)	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Benjamin Schleicher, BC member	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nate Caswell	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nathan Franssen	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Steven Davenport, BC member	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Chart, BC member	Water Development Interests

Introductions and changes to agenda – Hill

Hill called roll and confirmed a quorum.

Tribal Trust Responsibility Rationale Update– Mata

Mata informed the Committee that the State of New Mexico provided additional comments to the Tribal Trust Responsibility Rationale via email on November 15, 2022. The State of New Mexico generally agreed with the rationale but asked if we would consider including Pueblo allocations from the Tribal Trust calculations where the addition could add 1% to the tribal trust contributions from 64.1% to 64.2 %. Mata provided an update that several SJRIP tribal partners have been contacted and sought out their opinions, where most were agnostic. Mata stated that these values are being investigated and may be considered as long as we coordinate with the Pueblos of interests as all the tribal values calculated thus far were only for San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation (SJRIP) signatory Tribes and those values have been vetted. Several questions came up on whether the Pueblos depletion are accounted through contract water, and the answer was possibly some, but needs further investigation. Dumas agreed that the Pueblo values should be vetted by the tribes themselves if included. Dumas volunteered to work with the Pueblos in confirming depletion values from the San Juan Chama Project.

Post-2023 Funding Proposal Update – Garrison

Garrison apologized for not getting out the funding proposal out prior to the meeting given that the States have ongoing discussion as it relates to the Tribal Trust contribution. Garrison shared her screen to show a draft Funding Proposal. The proposal is setting the stage for the next 15 year and recognizes that recovery actions will need to occur even after post-recovery.

Capital funding recommended in the current proposal includes the following:

1. Adding \$100M to the capital ceiling and Reclamation funding (through appropriations) of \$100M for the two programs combined, with annual increases based on inflation for any unspent amount.
2. Rolling over all unspent federal and non-federal capital funds from the current authorization period into the FY2024-2038 period.
3. Retaining authority for Reclamation to use capital funds for any remaining unused Recovery Program ceiling as of September 2023 during the FY2024-2038 period.
4. Allowing non-federal partners to continue the current practice of providing matching capital funds on a project-by-project basis as appropriate and when funding availability allows.
5. Developing budgeting and scheduling timelines for projects ready for implementation on a project-by-project basis through joint meetings between the Coordination Committee of the San Juan Program and the Management Committee of the Upper Colorado Program.

Also allowing non-federal partners to continue the current practice of providing matching capital funds on a project by project basis. Distribution of capital funds to each programs' projects on an annual basis will be decided through joint meetings between the recovery programs. In addition, the proposal states that Partners acknowledge that a potential need for more capital funding.

Annual funding section of the proposal is still being worked on and discussed among the States. However, thus far annual funding refers to the cash contributions and partner-funded actions (“cash equivalent”) that support the annual operations of the recovery programs as described in their Annual Work Plans. Partners recommend funding the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery

Program (UCREFRP) at \$9.7 million dollars and SJRIP at \$4.2 million dollars to increase annually with inflation based on Consumer Product Index (CPI). The projection will use CPI with a three-year outlook.

As mentioned earlier the Tribal Trust Responsibility is still under developments and will be updated accordingly. The plan also states that that UCREFRP has not come up with a calculation for tribal trust but can be included into the future if feasible to calculate.

Reclamation will continue to seek federal appropriations for annual funding. Any available power revenues used to fund the Recovery Programs would be non-reimbursable and treated as a constructive return. Reclamation has agreed to take on most of the burden for replacing the hydropower funding that is not as reliable as it once was.

One of the Recovery Program goals is acquiring water in the future. Therefore, the water contributions section describes how water provided by non-federal partners to benefit the recovery programs as part of an action included in a program's annual workplan will be accounted for as a State/non-federal cash equivalent contribution. New Mexico is currently working on securing up to 20,000 acre-feet annually of water stored in Navajo Reservoir for placement in New Mexico's Strategic Reserve.

Pitts asked to add a footnote regarding Tribal Trust that it is not a different appropriation request and that it needs to be clear the USFWS contribution in particularly with Region 2 is adjusted for inflation based on the CPI.

Garrison also mentioned that there is also other language for other federal partners may contribute into the future and if that happened Bureau of Reclamation may reduce their contribution in the future.

Draft Post-2023 Recovery Program Authorizing Legislation – Pitts

Pitts shared legislation language via email and had conducted a meeting primarily with the Management Committee from the UCREFRP, but later invited the CC to attend as possible given that short notice. The Legislation is in draft for discussion and reflects much of the proposal that Garrison identified in the previous discussion.

It was recommended from the December 6, 2022 meeting to not amend the existing legislation but start with brand new legislation if that is an acceptable approach to Congress. Pitts will make inquiry on what is an acceptable approach.

Cunningham mentioned she was under the impression that Edalin Koziol from The Nature Conservancy was attempting to draft new language. Pitts will check with Koziol. Cunningham asked when the deadline is for the next draft language? Pitts would like to provide another draft by the end of next week. Cunningham also recommended that there should be a joint meeting between UCREFRP and SJRIP committees. Pitts said that we want to submit our legislation language by February when Congress is back in session. In addition, that we will need sponsors and cosponsor identified well before submission.

Additional Update Language Pitts

HR 3902 the bill has passed the House and now it is waiting to be attached to a larger bill in the Senate, having been passed by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. They are still optimistic that this will be passed as the Senate may be in session until December 30. This bill will reallocate capital funding.

Update on Colorado River Recovery Program EA – Mata

Julie Stahli and Mata are in the midst of developing the environmental assessment for the recovery programs and intend to have a draft completed by January for internal review.

Outstanding CC Business - Davis

A. Approval of August 3, 2022 CC meeting summary

Davis asked if there were any action items from the August 2022 CC meeting. Mata replied yes, there were 4 action items as follows and with the following updates:

1. The CC is in the process of voting to invite the NPS as a signatory participant. This is ongoing and now that the State of Utah is a signatory, Mata will seek to finalize the voting process through email.
2. BC base flow recommendation under shortage conditions will be provide to CC. This was no longer necessary since the forecast was no longer under a shortage conditions.
3. PO will develop an addendum to Program Document that allows BC members to review budgets during the AWP Process. This is the next agenda item and is complete.
4. Garrison will share draft SOW for Recovery Program economic review to CC. This is ongoing.

Davis asked for a motion, second and if there was any opposition and there were none from the Committee and each document is approved as final. The Program Office will finalize and post on the website. Please note that the names for the motion and second were not recorded during meeting by mistake.

B. Approval of Program Document Addendum

Mata reminded the committee that this document was originally out for an email vote and there were inadequate number of votes to finalize, and since then we received CC and BC nominations for the State of Utah and therefore the Program Document was updated to reflect that the State of Utah is a signatory. Mata shared her screen and identified the changes in the document and is still seeking approval of the Addendum.

Davis asked for a motion, second and if there was any opposition and there were none from the Committee and each document is approved as final. The Program Office will finalize and post on the website. Please note that the names for the motion and second were not recorded during meeting by mistake.

Wrap up and upcoming meetings

Mata reminded the committee of upcoming meetings and locations.

Researchers Meeting 31 January – 1 February 2023, Grand Junction, CO

BC meeting 21 – 23 February 2023 – Durango, CO

Annual, BC, CC Meeting TBD – Program will send out a Doodle Poll.

Action Items are as follows:

1. The CC is in the process of voting to invite the NPS as a signatory participant.
2. Garrison will share draft SOW for Recovery Program economic review to CC.
3. Dumas will coordinate with Pueblos tribes to verify depletions from the San Juan Chama Project.

Adjourn

Meeting concluded