

CR/FY-03 UCRRIC
Mail Stop 65115

Memorandum

To: Implementation Committee
Management Committee, Consultants, and Interested Parties
Meeting Attendees

From: Director, Upper Colorado River Recovery Implementation Program

Subject: Draft April 15, 2003, Recovery Implementation Committee Conference Call
Summary

Attached are the draft action and assignment summary and the general meeting summary from the recent Implementation Committee conference call. Please review these documents and contact me (303/969-7322, ext. 221) if you think any changes are necessary.

Attachment

- Summary -

Actions and Assignments
Recovery Implementation Committee–April 15, 2003

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Mary Henry will report on the status of Ralph's decision regarding environmental groups' representatives.
2. Bob Muth will check on the status of cooperative agreements with NFWF.
3. Angela Kantola will confirm the date of the next meeting.

CONVENE: 9:00 a.m.

1. Introductions, modify/review agenda (5 min.) Mary Henry chaired the meeting in Ralph Morgenweck's absence.
2. Approve October 15, 2002, meeting summary - The Committee unanimously approved the summary with no changes.
3. Environmental group representation - Dan Luecke reported that The Nature Conservancy and the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies have submitted resolutions in support of the Recovery Program. From Dan's point of view, he is once again fully involved with the Recovery Program and is ready to resume representation of conservation organizations on the Implementation Committee. Funds are in place to support his participation on the Implementation Committee, John Hawkins' participation on the Biology Committee and Tom Iseman's participation on the Management Committee. This information has been given to Ralph who will need to give final approval of this agreement. >Mary Henry will follow up with Ralph to confirm these committee roles and report back next week.
4. Program Director's update on the Recovery Program and the status of the fish - Bob Muth announced that the Program Director's Update was distributed last week. John Shields asked if any content changes were made on the fish status table. Bob said it was updated. He explained that the Program has mark-recapture estimates for Colorado pikeminnow in the Colorado River that date back to 1991. The most recent estimates are from 2000 and Doug Osmundson will obtain estimates in 2003. Thus, the Recovery Program has a good handle on population estimates for Colorado pikeminnow in the Colorado River. In the Green River, mark-recapture data was obtained in 2000 in the middle Green and in 2001 in the lower Green. Because this was a new effort, the Program needs a block of years to fully understand the annual point estimates. That block of years will be complete in 2003, and then the Program will have point estimates for the entire Green River system dating back to 2000.

The Program is improving its methods of data collection and understanding of the point estimates for humpback chub. We continue to have a strong population in the Black

Rocks/Westwater complex on the Colorado River, and it appears that we have a strong population in Desolation/Gray Canyons on the Green River. We are collecting data on the smaller populations and efforts are underway to improve Grand Canyon estimates.

We now have an integrated stocking plan for razorback sucker and bonytail for the entire upper basin. Discussion at a workshop the Recovery Program hosted last August centered on how to evaluate stocked fish, concluding that until populations are reestablished, data collected under other Recovery Program investigations (e.g., nonnative fish management and population estimates) would be sufficient to track the status of stocked fish. There is a proposed new start in 2004 for such data intergration and analysis.

John Shields asked Bob Muth the status of the cooperative agreement with National fish and Wildlife Foundation. Bob will followup with NFWF (John Berry).

Bob Muth said nonnative fish management is one of the largest efforts that will occur this field season, and it will be done with an experimental research treatment/control approach. Scopes of work were developed with sensitivity to the concerns of Colorado and Utah regarding maintaining local sportfishing opportunities in all river basins. An active information and education campaign is taking place. A news release was issued April 14 to announce upcoming work and public meetings scheduled the last week of April in Grand Junction, Steamboat Springs and Craig, Colorado. Utah will provide information at Regional Advisory Council meetings in May in Vernal and Green River.

5. Report on recovery activities in the Lower Basin - Mary Henry and Bob Muth reported on the status of recovery activity in the Lower Basin and coordination between Regions 2 and 6 of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Bob Muth, Mary Henry, Ralph Morgenweck and Margot Zallen recently met with Dale Hall (regional director in Region 2) and some of his staff to discuss the need to collaborate on recovery efforts throughout the basin. More meetings are scheduled to further this discussion. Tom Czapl has been actively working with folks in the Grand Canyon and advising them on how to get population estimates on humpback chub and what recovery actions are necessary to achieve recovery goals. Leslie James reported that Bill Davis said it's been helpful to have Tom attend the humpback chub recovery meetings.

Bob Muth said Ralph has asked him to write a response to a recent article that appeared in *Bioscience* regarding recovery in the lower basin. Tom Pitts asked Bob to post his response to the listserver and to ask Region 2 to help circulate this information.

Bob Muth and Bob McCue will attend this week's Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council meeting in Las Vegas. The agenda will include an update on the Recovery Implementation Planning Scientific Work Group (RIPSWG). The RIPSWG was convened by Nancy Kaufman, former regional director for Region 2, to help guide a multi-species conservation program in the lower basin.

6. Budget Update
 - a. FY 2002 depletion charge and annual budget adjustments - The Committee reviewed and discussed the annual depletion charge and budget adjustment table.
 - b. Status of annual funding (power revenues) - Clayton Palmer provided an update on the status of the Basin Fund/power revenues and potential impacts to Program annual funding. He said Reclamation and WAPA decided not to seek additional appropriations for FY 04 and 05. Non-federal partners could seek appropriated funds to support the Recovery Program; Reclamation and WAPA will discuss this possibility with CREDA. Clayton expects the basin fund to be negative by April 2004. Tom Pitts and Dan Luecke recommended Reclamation and WAPA involve more folks in this discussion, including appropriate parties from the San Juan River program, before any steps are taken to discuss it with Congress.
7. Highlights from Washington, D.C. trip - John Shields reported on highlights of the March 12-18 briefing trip. The trip went very well and there was good participation from partners and from State of New Mexico officials. This was the first year there were letters of support from all four governors. The trip report is available on the Program's website. John said several people they visited with asked why this Program continues to be successful while other programs flounder. John said he referred back to the trip report from last year where there is a summary of a dozen or more points that answer this question. Logistics, including the briefing book, worked well.
8. Scheduling next Implementation Committee meeting - Ralph Morgenweck is available August 28, 29, and September 3, 4, or 5, in Denver from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Committee members' availability will be sought and the next meeting date announced in the near future. (This was done and the meeting scheduled for September 4.)

ADJOURN: 10:05 a.m.

Attachment 1 - Participants
Colorado River Recovery Implementation Committee Conference Call, April 15, 2003

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mary Henry for Ralph Morgenweck, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Chairman)
Brent Uilenberg for Carol DeAngelis, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Tom Blickensderfer for Greg Walcher, Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Tom Pitts, Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields for Pat Tyrrell, Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Sherm Hoskins for Bob Morgan, Utah Department of Natural Resources
Ron Everhart, National Park Service
Leslie James, CREDA
Clayton Palmer, Western Area Power Administration
Dan Luecke, Environmental groups
Program Director Bob Muth, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (nonvoting)

OTHERS:

John Reber, National Park Service
Bob McCue, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Debbie Felker, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Recovery Program
Dave Mazour, Colorado River Energy Distributors Association