

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY (Revised February 19 and March 25, 2002)
Colorado River Management Committee, Denver, Colorado
January 23, 2002

Attendees: See Attachment 1

Assignments are highlighted in the text and listed at the end of the summary.

CONVENE - 9:45 a.m.

1. Review/modify agenda and time allocations and appoint a time-keeper - The agenda was modified as it appears below.
2. Approve October, 30, 2001 meeting summary - The summary was approved with correction to two typographical errors.
3. Recovery Program updates
 - a. Recovery goals - Bob Muth distributed an additional comment letter on the goals from Arizona and noted that copies of all other comments were sent to the Management Committee. Bob's office is reviewing and organizing the comments and will brief Ralph Morgenweck to make recommendations on how to proceed with addressing and responding to the comments by mid-March. Bob noted that lower basin states have some concerns and want to be very involved from this point forward. He still believes the goals can be finalized this spring.
 - b. Population estimation workshop - Bob Muth reported on the December 6-7 workshop on population estimates for Colorado pikeminnow and humpback chub. About 35 people attended, including San Juan and lower basin representatives. A compilation of the workshop presentations and a draft summary of the workshop were produced. The summary contains issues and concerns about the estimates (especially the methodology for estimating humpback chub populations) and also recommendations for addressing those issues. This will be discussed further before and during the February 12 Biology Committee meeting. Bob will send a copy of the workshop summary to John Reber, Tom Iseman, Robert King, Tom Blickensderfer and Shane Collins. Bob also will redistribute the summary to the Management Committee if it is revised as a result of the meetings on February 11 and 12. Bob noted that we may need to do additional humpback chub population estimates in Black Rocks and Westwater in 2003.
 - c. Tusher Wash screen - Brent Uilenberg reported that the Utah Supreme Court has accepted the case between Thayn Hydropower and the Green River Canal Company, so moving forward on the screen is out of our hands at this point. (In light of this and Price-Stubb, we'll need to seek to extend the deadline in the legislation for completion of capital projects.)
 - d. Ouray Hatchery completion - Brent said that they believe they've reached capacity on the well field and are now working on a recirculation system to

provide additional water needed at the hatchery. Roughly \$130K of the \$250K that the Management Committee approved to develop a more secure water supply at Ouray was spent in FY 2001. The total additional Program cost for FY 02 will be \$126K. The Committee approved expenditure of \$126K of FY 02 funds.

- e. Flaming Gorge EIS process - Brent Uilenberg and Bob Muth distributed revised schedules for the EIS. Tom Iseman said TNC, EDF, and NPS are working with CADSWES to model other alternatives (such as run-of-river). Reclamation is aware of this work and willing to consider an appropriate and timely alternative.
- f. Duchesne River Coordinated Reservoir Operations and biological study

Biology/physical science report status: Bob Muth said this is in review in the Program Director's office, and will go out for peer review within the next month.

Model status: Brent noted that \$50K was authorized in FY 01 (\$30K then \$20K additional). Of that \$43K was spent. The schedule has been extended and Brent provided a revised scope of work for \$10K in FY 02 (which the Management Committee approved). Bob Muth said Reclamation is ready to meet with the biologists to run additional model scenarios. The Committee approved the revised scope of work (which is basically budget neutral). The Management Committee will keep this on their list of updates.
- g. Gunnison River flow recommendations and PBO - Bob Muth distributed updates on the Gunnison and Yampa PBO's. The Service is working to resolve the technical issues surrounding the Gunnison flow recommendations, especially as they relate to peak flows needed for sediment transport. The Service will then need to provide responses on the remaining issues (hopefully within a couple of months). Gerry noted that the Gunnison PBO has also been delayed by identification of an increment of future depletions and the Park Service's water rights filing for the Black Canyon. Tom Pitts asked and Tom Blickensderfer agreed to ask CWCB resolve the issue of identifying the increment of future depletions.
- h. Nonnative fish control workshop agenda - Bob Muth distributed the agenda for the February 13-14 nonnative fish control workshop in Grand Junction, Colorado. A summary will be provided to the Management Committee after the meeting.
- i. Additional sites for translocating northern pike in the Yampa River Basin - Tom Nesler said he doesn't know of any additional sites yet, but will provide information on this at the nonnative fish workshop.
- j. Bluestone Ditch - Brent Uilenberg described a problem on the Colorado mainstem where we have growout ponds with a water supply from the Bluestone Ditch irrigation system. A ditch shareholder has taken exception to the diversion and storage of this water under an agricultural water right; therefore, Reclamation is trying to work out an alternative. One option would require a carriage

agreement with the irrigation company, but they would require payment. If a deal can't be negotiated, we'll have to use a portable pump. Brent will give an update on this during the upcoming conference call.

- k. Alternate listserv - Shane Collins said she believes Western can set up an alternate listserv since Interior e-mail and Internet access is still down. Angela and Shane will pursue this. Angela noted that if Interior's prohibition for Internet access continues, we also will need to pursue an alternate website. Ray Tenney said the River District can serve some web pages. Meanwhile, the Program Director's office can be reached at Angela's home e-mail: GraniteSquirrel@att.net.

4. 15-Mile Reach PBO Status

- a. Coordinated Facilities Operations - Bob Muth said the work group met recently and a final report and recommendations from Phase II is expected in March.
- b. Jacobsen Hydropower and Price-Stubb Fish Passage - Brent said that Jacobsen is trying to get a 2-year extension from Congress. Tom Blickensderfer said McInnis' office is considering the request. Brent noted that we have the fish passage in place below Price-Stubb and will have the one above (Government Highline) completed next spring. The PBO requires Price-Stubb passage to be in place already, so we're already out of compliance. Tom Pitts suggested that Program partners will want to contact Congressional representatives about this impact of an extension.
- c. Government Highline Fish Passage - Brent said the design is moving ahead and they hope to award a contract late this fiscal year and begin construction next winter. Need input from Management Committee regarding the cost of taking the canal (used winter and summer to move water for hydropower generation) out of production. The Committee agreed that the cost should be offset by the long-term benefits they're getting from the Program.
- d. Highline Reservoir water storage agreement - Brent reported that an appraisal is required since this is a lease of storage space and the appraisal will determine whether the price agreed to by the Management Committee is valid.
- e. Grand Valley Water Management - Brent said the pumping station will be fully operational by summer 2004.

- 5. Yampa River Management Plan, NEPA, & PBO - Gerry Roehm distributed an update. The comment period on the Management Plan is closed and Gerry hopes to summarize those and provide a summary of the comments by early March (this will shift the timeline for preparing the EA somewhat). If the modeling information is available in March, the biological assessment should be completed in April (which would initiate consultation with a final PBO expected within ~6 months) and the environmental assessment should follow thereafter.

6. Schedule next meeting - Conference call on February 19 from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Agenda items: IC agenda, FY 2002 power revenues budget, D.C. trip, etc. The Program Director's Office will set up the phone call.
7. FY 2002-2003 work plan status and revisions
 - a. Update on placeholders and changes - Angela Kantola distributed an updated table. Bob McCue will call Brian Person (Area Manager) with regard to project 12C.
 - b. Approval of new or revised scopes of work:
 1. Gunnison River temperature model - The majority of the Biology Committee voted to proceed with Phase II of this work, with Mark Wieringa (WAPA) opposing. The SOW has been revised as recommended by the Biology Committee and now comes before the Management Committee for consideration for funding in FY 02/03. Shane Collins said she's reviewed fish needs, temperatures at Delta, cost of temperature control devices (TCD's) and existing fish populations. It would appear that a TCD would cost \$20 million, it likely wouldn't provide an additional 2 degrees at Delta, and she questions whether this is really needed to recover pikeminnow populations. Bob Muth said warmer temperatures also are important for razorback sucker and bonytail. The draft recovery goals call for investigating the potential for increasing temperatures in the Gunnison and proceeding if feasible and necessary. Bob said he'd like to proceed with this work to identify if this can be done and how. Brent said he's not opposed to doing the modeling in this scope of work and considering nonstructural approaches to increasing temperatures, but we can't possibly pursue a TCD on Aspinall within our budget. The model can help us fine-tune flow recommendations with regard to temperature and also will provide information to the EIS regarding the effect of reoperations on the trout fishery. Shane recommended that this be done in the context of the EIS then, rather than under the Recovery Program. Brent proposed approving the scope of work contingent upon availability of FY 02 funds. The Committee approved the scope of work with Shane abstaining.
 2. Floodplain Habitat Restoration Program Umbrella Work Plan - The previously-approved umbrella SOW has been revised to incorporate preliminary results of levee-removal and razorback stocking studies and to address concerns regarding the amount of habitat which may be needed to recover razorback sucker (no change in budgets). Bob Muth said the revisions address Biology Committee concerns and the outcome of a recent floodplain restoration workshop. However, Bob said he believes we need to further incorporate results from that workshop. Bob said he's also spoken with Pat Nelson about ways to improve the research studies

under this umbrella work plan and would like to work with the Biology Committee and researchers to do that. Bob said he believes the modeling work we've asked Rich Valdez to do will provide better guidance as to what additional habitat we need. Leslie James distributed CREDA's summary and comments on the floodplain restoration program and summarized their concerns that the direction of the program doesn't seem to be consistent with the results of studies to date. Tom Pitts said that the water users concur with CREDA's comments; that they have little confidence that the current floodplain restoration program is contributing to recovery; and that they do not believe program results are being objectively reviewed. Therefore, they are not prepared to continue Program expenditures at this level. Tom said he'd also like to know the amount of flooded acreage we get from natural flooding and what our floodplain acquisition and levee removal add to that. The Management Committee asked: 1) that the Biology Committee consider the technical issues; and 2) that the Program Director's office and Reclamation provide a breakdown of the 2001 and 2002 funds spent/being spent on this program (including Program staff costs not shown in the floodplain restoration scopes of work). Leslie James recommended that meanwhile we not seek any new offers for land acquisition. The Committee agreed. Bob will check with Dave Soker on the status of any pending new offers and alert Dave to the Committee's decision. The Program Director's office will provide a better summary of the recent floodplain workshop and draft reports and include recommendations for how to proceed. The Program Director's office also will review the research scopes of work for FY 02 and provide recommendations for improvement before they are implemented this spring.

3. Nonnative fish escapement from Starvation Reservoir - The Biology Committee recommended approval of the scope of work and it has been modified according to their recommendations. Those modifications resulted in a total cost of \$70,800 instead of the \$46,300 previously approved by the Management and Implementation committees. The modified SOW is submitted to the Management Committee for approval. Assuming that the Biology Committee is satisfied with the scope of work revisions, the Management Committee approved this scope of work with the correction that this comes from annual, not capital funds (with the caveat that the budget figures need to be reviewed because they appear inconsistent).
4. Recovery Goals, Population Estimates Workshop, Flooded Bottomlands Requirement - The Program Director recommends the Management Committee approve this SOW for \$43,500 of Section 7 funds to review and respond to Recovery Goals comments, develop a draft guidance document for Colorado pikeminnow and humpback chub population estimation, and to develop a model of razorback sucker growth and survival in bottomlands to determine the area of bottomlands required for

recovery. The Committee approved this scope of work. The flooded bottomlands report will go through the usual Biology Committee review process. Tom Pitts suggested that perhaps the Service should fund future work on these recovery goals. Bob McCue will discuss this with Ralph.

5. Additional hardware for GVIC - This is a rock structure with a notch and stoplogs in the notch. Brent Uilenberg said the stoplogs aren't working and will only get worse with screen installation. Therefore, the notch needs to be automated with an Obermeyer gate at a cost of \$30K. The Committee approved the installation. The screen installation is proceeding well and will be done before irrigation season.

8. Funding

- a. Status of CWCB loan to WAPA - Shane Collins said their contract office is working with the Colorado Attorney General's office on the MOU for the loan and it should be done soon.
- b. Capital funds status report - Brent Uilenberg distributed a budget worksheet on the FY 01 capital expenditures and obligations. The task in 2002 is to balance the power revenue cost share and state contributions. Brent will try to provide an updated outyear budget planning spreadsheet by the next Management Committee meeting that will tell us what needs to be done to make the 2-year balance. Brent distributed a revised capital projects construction schedule. With Price-Stubb potentially on hold and Tusher in court, capital construction may need to go beyond 2005.
- c. Status of States' transfer of funding to NFWF (States) report on transfer of capital cost-share funds to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Tom Blickensderfer reported that some minor revisions are being made to their agreement and will be completed within 2 weeks.
- d. Status of FY 2002 annual funds (Uilenberg, McCue, States) Brent said that Reclamation's FY 02 request was submitted in FY 99, but the Program's FY 02 budget (and Reclamation's obligation) was formulated in FY 01 with the passage of the long-term funding legislation. This potentially leaves a \$600K shortfall for the Upper Basin and San Juan Programs. Brent said Reclamation, CREDA, and Western will have a conference call as soon as possible to determine whether all the needed funds can be made available. If there is a shortfall, they will work with the Program Director's office to identify what work can be canceled or deferred (and the Management Committee would need to consider that recommendation before the March trip to D.C.). Leslie James said that an even greater issue may be Reclamation's vastly increased security costs (post September 11) and the effect on Reclamation's use of power revenues if the security costs are not met from appropriated non-reimbursable funds. The Service believes they have \$700K in recovery funds and \$400K for Ouray (still confirming the latter). John Shields noted that George Smith needs to submit an

invoice to Wyoming to make payment for last year. Angela Kantola distributed budget tables for FY 02 and a draft table with the inflation increase for FY 03. John Shields provided a comment on that table, and it will be revised by the Program Director's office.

9. Program planning schedule - Bob Muth updated the Committee on the Program Director's office schedule for submitting recommended RIPRAP revisions, RIPRAP assessment, and significant changes to the FY 03 work plan, and the Service's schedule for completing their annual review of sufficient progress. Bob said the RIPRAP revisions, assessment, and significant changes or new starts to the FY 03 work plan are about a month behind schedule, but should be completed by the end of February, along with a revised planning schedule for the remainder of this year. Since this is an "off-year" for budget planning (second of a 2-year work plan), this should not have a serious impact on the Program's schedule. The Service's sufficient progress review should be completed by May.
10. Draft Implementation Committee agenda - The Committee discussed agenda items for this meeting, including:
 - a. Approval of October 17, 2001 meeting summary
 - b. Potential FY 02 budget shortfall
 - c. Floodplain restoration program
 - d. Recovery Program and fish status update
 - e. Recovery goals update
 - f. DELETE: Review/approval of recommended RIPRAP revisions (do by Management Committee proxy or conference call).
 - g. DELETE: Review/approval of recommended of FY 2003 Program Guidance (do by Management Committee proxy or conference call).
 - h. Update on Congressional briefing trip
 - i. Scheduling the September 2002 Implementation Committee meeting.
11. Planning the March 13-19, 2002, D.C. Briefing Trip - Management Committee members planned the annual briefing trip. Travel will be on the 12th and late on the 19th.
 - a. FY 03 Reclamation and Service budget requests - Program participants plan to support \$700K in recovery funds and \$400K for Ouray Hatchery O&M. The Committee will get the appropriate specific language for the support letters. The Reclamation amount for FY 2003 should be \$6,447K for the San Juan, Upper Colorado, and activities to avoid jeopardy as reflected in the outyear budget table.
 - b. Scheduling meetings - John Shields will distribute a blank outline within 2 weeks and ask folks to fill in the blanks (Chris Karas has offered to help any way she can). Bob McCue will try to set up a meeting with the Service's new director (assumes one will be on board at that time). The Committee agreed to try to host a box lunch similar to the one last year that CREDA arranged. We'll also seek to schedule a briefing for all Interior folks again. Program participants will identify their trip participants as soon as possible. (A block of rooms has been reserved at

the Capitol Hill Suites from March 12-19 for which participants need to contact Kathy Wall at 303/969-7322, ext. 225.)

- c. Assignments - Brent said that Chris Karas informs him that Reclamation's committee hearings in the House are early (February 28). The States, water users, and environmental groups will get their letters supporting Reclamation's budget done early and back to D.C. by February 28. Tom Pitts will draft the letters for both the House and Senate and provide them to the appropriate Program participants. John Shields suggested that the Program try to get New Mexico to participate in the trip this year. Tom Pitts will ask Tom Blickensderfer to ask if Greg Walcher would call New Mexico and request their participation.
12. Section 7 update - Angela Kantola distributed an updated consultation list. Discussion was deferred, but comments or questions may be directed to Angela Kantola, 303/969-7322, ext. 221 or GraniteSquirrel@att.net. Tom Pitts will provide an update of the summary table to Angela by next week.
 13. Information and Education Report - Debbie Felker provided a status report on the Program's information, education, and public involvement activities. Debbie noted that the Service expressed concern that the Program briefing book used in the D.C. trip looks too much like a lobbying document; therefore, this year it won't include the Service address, it will include a disclaimer, and it won't have the letters bound in the book (but we can put them in the front pocket). Trip participants will be listed on a sheet for the back pocket and Implementation and Governance Committee members will be listed in the book itself. Debbie showed the Committee the interpretive signs on each of the four fish that were made for the hatcheries. Debbie noted that most of our I&E materials are being reprinted to meet increasing demand. The Southwest Data Center is helping to develop a computer interactive map that will be used on the Program website. The Program display is getting frequent use and was in place at the signing ceremony, which was very successful.
 14. Additional Recovery Program updates
 - a. Notes from January 16-17, 2001 Researchers Meeting - Bob Muth provided copies of the abstracts from the annual researchers meeting.
 - b. Reports status - Angela Kantola provided an updated reports list. Discussion was deferred, but comments or questions may be directed to Angela Kantola, 303/969-7322, ext. 221 or GraniteSquirrel@att.net. Sherm Hoskins provided a status update on their reports.
 - c. Funds ear-marked in Treasury for Recovery Program land acquisition - Brent Uilenberg said that the Program (Reclamation) purchased three easements along the Green River in January of 1999 with \$495,850 of capital funds as part of the floodplain restoration program. These easements were transferred to the Service to manage under the National Wildlife Refuge System. It was later discovered that these parcels had previous easements that made them unusable for the

purposes Reclamation purchased them. Therefore, the title company was obligated to reimburse the U.S. Government for the cost of the easements. Stewart Title reimbursed Reclamation \$495,850 and those funds are in the Treasury and earmarked for Recovery Program land acquisition.

ADJOURN: 4:30 p.m.

ASSIGNMENTS

Bob Muth will send a copy of the population estimation workshop summary to John Reber, Tom Iseman, Robert King, Tom Blickensderfer and Shane Collins. Bob also will redistribute the summary to the Management Committee if it is revised as a result of the meetings on February 11 and 12.

*Tom Blickensderfer agreed to take the issue of identifying the increment of future depletions from the Gunnison River to the CWCB for resolution.

The Program Director's office will provide a summary of the nonnative fish control workshop to the Management Committee after the meeting.

Brent Uilenberg will give an update on Bluestone Ditch during the February 19 conference call.

Angela and Shane will pursue setting up an alternate listserver at Western Area Power Administration.

Tom Pitts suggested that Program partners will want to contact Congressional representatives about this impact of an extension on Price-Stubb hydropower licensing.

The Program Director's Office will set up the Management Committee's conference call on February 19 from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Bob McCue will call Brian Person (Area Manager) with regard to project 12C (Coordinated Reservoir Operations), which is currently a placeholder in the FY 02 budget pending identification of funding which should be provided by the Recovery Program versus that which should come from Reclamation.

Bob Muth will check with Dave Soker on the status of any pending new offers for land acquisition and alert Dave to the Committee's decision to put further new land acquisition on hold. The Program Director's office will provide a better summary of the recent floodplain workshop and draft reports and include recommendations for how to proceed. The Program Director's office also will review the research scopes of work for FY 02 and provide recommendations for improvement before they are implemented this spring.

Bob McCue will discuss with Ralph Tom Pitts' suggestion that perhaps the Service should fund future work on these recovery goals.

Brent Uilenberg will try to provide an updated outyear budget planning spreadsheet by the next Management Committee meeting that will identify what needs to be done to make the 2-year capital budget balance.

Reclamation, CREDA, and Western will have a conference call as soon as possible to determine whether all the needed FY 02 annual funds can be made available. If there is a shortfall, they will work with the Program Director's office to identify what work can be canceled or deferred

(and the Management Committee would need to consider that recommendation before the March trip to D.C.).

George Smith will submit an invoice to Wyoming to make payment for last year.

Angela Kantola will finalize and distribute the draft table showing agency contributions with inflation increases for FY 03.

Program participants plan to support \$700K in recovery funds and \$400K for Ouray Hatchery O&M. The Committee will get the appropriate specific language for the support letters. The Reclamation amount for FY 2003 should be \$6,447K for the San Juan, Upper Colorado, and activities to avoid jeopardy as reflected in the outyear budget table. The States, water users, and environmental groups will get their letters supporting Reclamation's budget done early and back to D.C. by February 28. Tom Pitts will draft the letters for both the House and Senate and provide them to the appropriate Program participants. John Shields suggested that the Program try to get New Mexico to participate in the trip this year. Tom Pitts will ask Tom Blickensderfer to ask if Greg Walcher would call New Mexico and request their participation.

John Shields will distribute an outline of the D.C. trip schedule within 2 weeks and ask folks to fill in the blanks. Bob McCue will try to set up a meeting with the Service's new director (assumes one will be on board at that time). The Committee agreed to try to host a box lunch similar to the one last year that CREDA arranged. We'll also seek to schedule a briefing for all Interior folks again. Program participants will identify their trip participants as soon as possible.

Tom Pitts will provide an update of the summary Section 7 consultation table to Angela by next week.

**Colorado River Management Committee, Denver, Colorado
January 23, 2002**

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg and Tony Morton	Bureau of Reclamation
Tom Blickensderfer and Tom Nesler	State of Colorado
Sherman Hoskins & Robert King	Utah Department Of Natural Resources
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Shane Collins	Western Area Power Administration
Bob McCue	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Leslie James for Dave Mazour	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
John Reber	National Park Service
Tom Iseman	The Nature Conservancy

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
Gerry Roehm	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Others:

Sue Lowry	State of Wyoming
Ray Tenney	Colorado River Water Conservation District