

Management Committee Meeting Summary
June 27, 2002
Salt Lake City, Utah

Attendees: See Attachment 1

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

CONVENE - 9:00 a.m.

1. Introductions
2. Review/modify agenda and time allocations and appoint a time-keeper - The agenda was modified as it appears below.
3. Approve April 29 meeting summary - The summary was approved with a minor change to item 4.f. and the assignment list. >Angela Kantola will post the revised summary to the listserver.
4. Recovery Program updates
 - a. Recovery goals - Bob Muth said the Service plans to have the the goals in final form by mid-July, then hopefully a Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register by the end of July.
 - b. Price Stubb Diversion Dam and Grand Valley Project Fish Ladder - Brent Uilenberg said FERC notified Mr. Jacobsen on June 3 advising “probable termination of his FERC license within 30 days.” Reclamation’s draft supplement to the EA is in internal review and should be published July 26 with a 30-day review. The rock ramp passage is the preferred alternative (more natural and less stressful for fish in light of the nearby proposed concrete ladder at the Grand Valley Project). It will be somewhat more expensive, however. Reclamation will meet with Mr. Jacobsen in mid-July to discuss the preferred alternative and a construction easement. Construction will hopefully begin in 2003 after peak flows.
 - c. Tusher Wash screen - Sherm Hoskins said he reviewed a revised version of an agreement to handle carriage, but there are problems with it. Sherm suggested some revisions to the draft letter from Bob Muth to the Green River Canal Company’s attorney. >Sherm will continue to encourage Green River and Thayn to come to agreement so construction can go forward. >Bob Muth will finalize the letter to the Green River Canal Company’s attorney.
 - d. Flaming Gorge EIS process - Kerry Schwartz said the EIS is on schedule with a draft expected in September. A cooperating agency meeting will be held this summer prior to publication of the draft.

- e. Duchesne River Coordinated Reservoir Operations - Bob Muth said the Biology Committee is waiting for two peer review comments on the biology report; and he anticipates it will be on the August Biology Committee agenda. Gene commented that the draft recommendations may need some refinement so flows can be properly monitored. Brent Uilenberg said the modeling effort has been completed and reviewed and a final report should be completed by mid-July.
- f. Drought impacts - Bob Muth distributed a status report on flows. The Program will use its water from Ruedi, Williams Fork and Wolford Mountain reservoirs to try to maintain and connect pools through October, to the extent possible. All parties are working cooperatively to set realistic flow targets. Brent noted that if the drought continues and flows are this low next year, we will have dry reaches of river.
- g. Colorado River Coordinated Facilities Operations Program - Bob Muth referenced the e-mail from Leo Eisel. A corrected model (StateMod) should be ready by mid-July. A final draft report is expected in September, unless major changes are needed in the model (in which case additional funds will be required and a final draft report wouldn't be produced until December). Brent Uilenberg noted that the current dispute between CRWCD and Northern will make implementing CFOPS a real challenge.
- h. Review of information and education materials referencing the Recovery Program and the endangered fish - Bob Muth emphasized the need to maintain positive, consistent messages in press releases, signage, etc. that reference the Program and/or the endangered fish. Bob asked each Management Committee member to make sure that their agencies/groups coordinate with Debbie Felker so she has opportunity to review draft information produced by their agencies/groups about the fish and the Program. Bob Muth stressed that we want to maintain consistent, *positive* messages. The Management Committee endorsed I&E coordinator review of public information messages about the Program and/or the fish by Program participants.
- i. Grand Valley water management pumping plant - Brent Uilenberg said this is the last component of Grand Valley Water Management and is delayed due to:
1) appraisal for the lease between Colorado and Reclamation (expected soon);
and 2) need to finish the lease agreement. Brent asked >Tom Blickensderfer to make sure the second item is on Colorado's radar screen for completion as soon as the appraisal is done.
- j. Stocking program and growout ponds - Brent Uilenberg noted that the hatchery facilities plan says production of razorback sucker in Colorado requires 18.1 acres of growout ponds and we have 98 acres. Brent asked if there's a way (net dividers, pit-tagging, whatever) that we could retire the DeBeque ponds (which the Service says are needed to maintain separate family lots), since we have such a water supply problem there. Bob Muth said Tom Czaplá has contacted Marlis and Mike Douglas (geneticists) about tissue analyses that could be conducted to

dermine if we can mix family lots at the point they're stocked into ponds without worrying about losing diversity (proportionate stocking of family lots) once the fish are stocked in the river. Brent added that the report implies that we have sufficient and perhaps excess hatchery capacity, and suggested that we consider whether we could provide some space for the San Juan program's needs. Bob Muth said that the stocked fish workshop in August will include a discussion of San Juan needs.

- k. GVIC fish screen - Brent Uilenberg discussed start-up difficulties with operation of the new screen. Bob Muth distributed a copy of the letter he sent to the GVIC superintendent outlining the Program's commitment to getting the screen fully functional. >Bob Muth will report back to the Committee on GVIC's response to the letter.
 - l. Status report on working with Congress to extend the authorization period for federal and non-federal funding under P.L. 106-392 - Sherm Hoskins gave copies directly to Congressman Hansen and his staffers. Congressman Hansen said he would notify us of any attempts to add amendments. The proposed legislation should go through the Committee this week and through the full House by the end of July. It will then be added into an omnibus bill in mid-September before Congress adjourns, with passage by the end of September. It's currently drafted as an amendment to the law extending the periods. >Committee members will send letters of support to their delegations as soon as we have a bill number; Tom Pitts will draft a letter and circulate it to everyone.
5. Floodplain Habitat Restoration - Bob Muth said Pat Nelson and Dave Soker prepared a synthesis report on the floodplain restoration program to facilitate review. The Biology Committee discussed it at their recent meeting and Biology Committee members were given until June 28 to submit additional comments (especially regarding "where do we go from here"). Tom Iseman asked for an additional week to submit comments and Bob Muth agreed. The Biology Committee will discuss the comments at the end of July, then the Program Director's office will revise the synthesis document prior to the Biology Committee's August meeting. The Program Director's office is still working on a summary of the land acquisition budget. >Bob Muth will get the Committee an update on where we're at on acquisition at Thunder Ranch and Hot Spot.
6. Gunnison River Basin
- a. Flow recommendations - Bob Muth noted that Tom Pitts posted comments on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service document regarding proposed resolution of minority concerns. Since the Service worked with the "minority opinion" group for many months, other members of the Biology Committee asked for additional time (until July 15) to provide comment on the revised recommendations and a list of uncertainties. Tom Pitts said he posted the water users' final proposals yesterday, which recommend moving ahead, recognizing the uncertainties, and committing to research needed to resolve the uncertainties. Leslie said CREDA would like to have had more uncertainties resolved before beginning the EIS

process. Bob said that unless the Service hears compelling reasons why the revised recommendations aren't appropriate, the Service plans to move ahead to finalize the report. Tom Iseman encouraged the Service to carefully consider the comments submitted by other members of the Biology Committee. Bob emphasized that both the original and the revised recommendations are equally based on biology, specifically the assumption that if you transport sediment out of the system, you will create and maintain habitat for the endangered fish.

- b. Estimation/identification of future Gunnison River depletions - Tom Blickensderfer said he's still trying to get information from CWCB. >Tom will post additional information to the listserver and/or Management Committee as soon as possible. Brent Uilenberg said he discussed this with Eric Kuhn and they recommend that Tom Blickensderfer, Randy Seaholm, Tom Pitts and Eric Kuhn meet and have a strategy session and develop a proposal. >Tom Blickensderfer will schedule that meeting. Brent suggested just working to agree on a depletion number rather than trying to specify now who's going to deplete how much from where.
 - c. Aspinall EIS process update - Tom Pitts asked if Reclamation can begin the modeling now and Brent said they're working on it. Tom asked if there's anything else we can be doing now. Brent said they've taken the public scoping process (conducted 3 years ago) as far as possible at this point; and they've used the model to analyze the original and revised flow recommendation as well as the Park Service reserved water right. Brent said he thinks the reserved water right case may get resolved more quickly than he previously anticipated.
7. Acceleration of Recovery of Razorback Sucker and Bonytail - Bob Muth discussed the revised document from his office "Estimated time lines for recovery of razorback sucker and bonytail: rationale for estimates." Survival rates of stocked fish are one uncertainty. If our estimated survival rates are correct, we might get to recovery targets a little earlier than anticipated. Many of the uncertainties will be answered through monitoring stocked fish (there will be a workshop to develop the monitoring program at the end of August). At this time, the best estimate for reaching recovery targets are those outlined in the draft recovery goals. Bob said that consistency between the Utah and Colorado stocking plans will be discussed at the August workshop, also. Bob said that until we have fish in the system, we can't verify survival rates, and we won't know if accelerated stocking would be helpful until we verify survival rates. Tom said Greg is comfortable with this document, but would like to acknowledge the possibility of achieving self-sustaining populations before 2015. Bob reminded the Committee that this timeline applies to recovery in both the upper and lower basins. We also have to overcome the recruitment bottleneck. Tom Blickensderfer noted that Colorado is filing a friend of the court brief on the Oregon case in the 9th Circuit regarding the role of hatchery raised fish in recovery.
8. Program Planning
- a. Recommended RIPRAP revisions - Angela Kantola noted that she will add an item for O&M on the GVIC fish screen. Angela and Brent will make sure that

Reclamation's comments were incorporated. Tom Pitts will review and submit any additional comments by July 11. >Angela will then finalize the document and get it printed and also posted to the website.

- b. FY 2003 Work Plan Schedule - Angela Kantola said there are amendments to the work plan in terms of some proposed new starts and significantly revised ongoing work. These will be peer-reviewed as necessary and then discussed by the Biology Committee at the end of August, then by the Management Committee in September. The Management Committee will need to discuss with their Implementation Committee members whether or not the Implementation Committee will need to approve the amendments to the 2003 work plan once the Management Committee has reviewed them. Brent Uilenberg expressed concern about potential effectiveness of pond screening (based on experience at Horsethief). >Angela Kantola will post a complete list of proposed new starts and significantly revised scopes of work which will be reviewed by the Biology Committee in August.
9. Agenda for July 23, 2002, Implementation Committee conference call - Agenda items for this conference call include: timelines for recovery (no decision required); Recovery Program environmental group representation; status of the legislation; and status of recovery goals. Tom Iseman said he doesn't have any new information on environmental group representation at this point.
10. Capital funds status report - Brent Uilenberg distributed an updated outyear budget planning spreadsheet. The FY 02 column now reflects Reclamation's best estimates of what will be spent this year in the Upper Colorado and San Juan programs. >The Program Director's office will provide Reclamation with an estimate of spending under Yampa River Management Plan the this year. >CRWCD will provide a realistic set of expenditures for Elkhead enlargement/Yampa plan through 2008. Bottomlands restoration was revised to reflect the payment from the title company as well as the Bird/Pennington settlement (DOJ did not accept input from Reclamation or the Program on the settlement). The total anticipated FY 02 capital program expenditure is \$7,662M. \$5,982M is the total Federal amount available to both Programs after under-financing, but Reclamation proposes to reprogram \$800K of that (which *will not* be charged to the Program ceiling). The legislation requires balance between the power and state contributions. The non-Federal funding need for FY 02 is \$2.48 million. Brent asked the Committee how that should be contributed between the three states and how we should balance between power revenue and state contributions. (The table only shows expenditures for FY 99-02, not contributions.) >By then end of July, Brent, John Shields, Tom Blickensderfer, Robert King, John Whipple and Shane Collins will identify the balances in NFWF accounts and recommend to the Committee suggested allocation of state and power cost share. >The states will inform Brent what's in their appropriation pipelines. Federal funding is currently (FY 99 - FY 02) significantly ahead of state and power contributions. FY 03 costs shown in the table for the Yampa, floodplain restoration, Tusher Wash, and Price-Stubb may need revising.

11. “Sufficient Progress” Assessment and Transmittal - Bob Muth clarified that inclusion of FG EIS just to make sure it doesn’t slip any further. Bob McCue said the Service will take that out. The fourth item at the bottom of page 3 will be changed to indicate CFOPS is what has been delayed and a title will be added to the table. >The Service will make these modifications and get the letter out week after next.
12. Reports status - Angela Kantola distributed an updated list and Sherm Hoskins distributed a status summary on Utah’s reports. >Angela will incorporate the information from Utah and distribute a revised table.
13. Schedule next meeting - September 16- 17 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, beginning at 1 p.m. on Monday and running through 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

ADJOURN: 4:00 p.m.

ASSIGNMENTS

Angela Kantola will post the revised April 29 meeting summary to the listserver. *(Done.)*

Sherm Hoskins will continue to encourage Green River and Thayn to come to agreement so construction of the Tusher Screen can go forward. **Bob Muth** will finalize the letter to the Green River Canal Company's attorney.

Tom Blickensderfer will make sure that finishing a lease agreement on the Grand Valley water management pumping plant is on Colorado's radar screen for completion as soon as the appraisal is done.

Bob Muth will report back to the Management Committee on GVIC's response to his letter about the fish screen operation.

Committee members will send letters of support to their delegations on extending implementation period for the the long-term funding legislation as soon as we have a bill number; **Tom Pitts** will draft a letter and circulate it to everyone.

Bob Muth will get the Committee an update on land acquisition at Thunder Ranch and Hot Spot.

Tom Blickensderfer will post additional information on estimation/identification of future Gunnison River depletions to the listserver and/or Management Committee as soon as possible. Brent Uilenberg said he discussed this with Eric Kuhn and they recommend that Tom Blickensderfer, Randy Seaholm, Tom Pitts and Eric Kuhn meet and have a strategy session and develop a proposal. **Tom Blickensderfer** will schedule that meeting.

Angela Kantola will add an item for O&M on the GVIC fish screen to the RIPRAP. **Angela** will make sure that Reclamation's comments on the RIPRAP were incorporated. **Tom Pitts** will review and submit any additional comments by July 11. **Angela** will then finalize the document and get it printed and also posted to the website.

Angela Kantola will post a complete list of proposed new starts and significantly revised scopes of work which will be reviewed by the Biology Committee in August.

The Program Director's office will provide Reclamation with an estimate on spending under Yampa River Management Plan the this year. **CRWCD** will provide a realistic set of expenditures for Elkhead enlargement/Yampa plan through 2008. By then end of July, **Brent, John Shields, Tom Blickensderfer, Robert King, John Whipple and Shane Collins** will identify the balances in NFWF accounts and recommend to the Committee suggested allocation of state and power cost share. The **states** will inform Brent what's in their appropriation pipelines.

The Service will modify the draft sufficient progress letter and get it out week after next.

Angela Kantola will incorporate the information Utah provided and distribute a revised reports due table. *(Done.)*

**Colorado River Management Committee, Salt Lake City, Utah
June 27, 2002**

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg	Bureau of Reclamation
Tom Blickensderfer	State of Colorado
Robert King and Sherm Hoskins	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
Skip Ladd	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
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Others:

Kerry Schwartz	Bureau of Reclamation
Gene Shawcroft	Central Utah Water Conservancy District
Bob Adler	University of Utah
Norm Henderson	National Park Service