

Management Committee Meeting Summary
November 20, 2002
Denver, Colorado

Attendees: See Attachment 1

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

CONVENE - 10:00 a.m.

1. Review/modify agenda and time allocations and appoint a time-keeper - The agenda was modified as it appears below.
2. Approve September 16, 2002 meeting and October 9, 2002 conference call summaries - The summaries were approved as written.
3. Recovery Program updates
 - a. Ruedi Reservoir water contract repayment issue/negotiations - Brian Person reported that the Great Plains region of Reclamation has discussed this issue at length and now proposes that the \$40K annual O&M be paid by the Recovery Program, as stated in the amended biological opinion, and that they are no longer requesting that the capital costs be credited to them. Reclamation will absorb the capital costs, but they would like Program reports to account for it as an additional Reclamation contribution to overall Program costs. Dave Mazour suggested that Program reports similarly identify power loss costs as additional contributions. Reclamation will now hold meetings to explain this complicated repayment structure to water users, etc. The Committee proposed that the capital costs be reflected in the pie chart in the annual Program briefing book, as well as in the annual Program work plan funding table. >Brent Uilenberg will provide the Program Director's office with the correct budget figures for this. >The Program Director's office will send a letter to Brian outlining how they will account for the funds.
 - b. Working with Congress to extend the authorization period for federal and non-federal funding under P.L. 106-392 - Committee members reported that despite Congressional staffers hard work to make this happen, this is probably not going to get on a unanimous consent agenda before the Senate adjourns. Returning to their offices after the meeting, Committee members were very pleased to learn that H.R. 5099 was, in fact, passed by the Senate late on Tuesday, November 19 and is on its way to the President for signature.
 - c. Status of environmental group representation on the Implementation Committee - Tom Iseman said that they continue working with Dan Luecke to set up an arrangement with Dan and the Land and Water Fund. They're developing a fundraising plan and Dan believes they have good leads, so hopefully Dan will be back on board around the new year. Tom said they've received messages from

other environmental groups who have recently expressed interest in the Program (e.g., Grand Canyon Trust), and they will be keeping those groups informed.

- d. Tusher Wash screen - Sherm Hoskins reported that Green River Canal Company drafted an agreement on the volume of water they would carry in the canal and the attorneys believe they are close to finalizing that agreement with Thayne. Once this is resolved, we need to discuss whether the dam needs to be raised slightly (~12") to increase the head and if passage (e.g., notch, rock/drop) would be required to compensate for that. Bob Muth distributed copies of a letter sent to the canal company's attorney on September 19, 2002, explaining the Program's position.
- e. Lease agreement for Grand Valley water management pumping plant - Brent said Reclamation received a third-party appraisal (\$150K), and forwarded it to Colorado. Colorado has asked to see the full appraisal and >Brent will check with the Solicitor to see if they may legally release the whole thing (the Solicitor previously said that portions of the appraisal are proprietary). Brent cautioned that we need to get this agreement in place before we face another drought season. The many restrictions on the use of the storage space in Highline causes the value to be much less than it might be in newly-built storage. Brent explained that there are minimal cost alternatives to using Highline for storage, but that the Program recognized the negative impacts those alternatives would have on Highline. Bruce McCloskey said he's optimistic this can be resolved fairly quickly. >Bruce will check on the status of the draft lease agreement, which is still in Colorado Attorney General's office.
- f. Grand Valley Irrigation Company fish screen and contract - Bob Muth said he and Brent and other Reclamation folks met with Phil Bertrand of GVIC on October 31, 2002 to discuss ways to improve screen operation and resolve issues with O&M costs. Bob said he thinks they were able to resolve the major issues and he distributed a letter Brent sent to Phil outlining the decisions made during the meeting. Dave Mazour asked if these screens may not pose an overwhelming cost to the Recovery Program. Brent said that a 3/32" opening has been shown the easiest to keep clean, but that O&M is indeed expensive. John Shields expressed concern about the \$31/hour labor rate, since not all the fish screen maintenance is technical. Tom Pitts and Brent and Bob Muth said the screen is still in a shake-down period and that this is the best approach.
- g. Status of estimation/identification of future Gunnison River depletions - Bruce McCloskey said Colorado still wants to see the revised draft flow recommendations before they can provide depletion estimates. Tom Pitts said the needed demand estimates are completely independent of the flow recommendations and repeated his request for a meeting with Randy Seaholm, Eric Kuhn, and Tom Blickensderfer to outline the issues, process, and alternatives. >Bruce will convey that request to Tom Blickensderfer and Greg Walcher. The Committee will discuss this again when they hear back from that group.

- h. Monitoring stocked fish/revisions to stocking plans - Tom Czapla said that the summary of the August 28-29, 2002, workshop on evaluation of stocked fish was sent in draft to the Biology Committee and workshop participants on October 30; comments requested by December 2, 2002. One recommendation from the workshop is that the Program can use existing field work (population monitoring and nonnative fish control) to evaluate stocked fish. The Program Director's office is working with the States to revise and integrate their stocking plans. Tom has received feedback from Colorado and hopes to hear from Utah before Thanksgiving so that he can provide something for Biology Committee review during their December meeting. Bob Muth noted that the San Juan program has a goal of stocking 350,000+ larval pikeminnow each year. They haven't been able to produce enough fish to meet their goal yet, so we've revised our upper basin plan to try to provide 6" fish for the San Juan Program to help make up for their shortage. Tom Pitts said this needs to be in the San Juan Program's stocking plan; >Tom Czapla will communicate that to Dale Ryden. Dave Mazour raised the concern about humpback chub population estimates and Bob Muth said biologists at the workshop discussed the possible need for humpback chub broodstock and/or stocking depending on the outcome of population estimates. Brent Uilenberg asked about excess growout pond space for the San Juan Program and Tom Czapla said he is working with the San Juan Program to make excess space available. Bob Muth said one related issue is whether we can mix lots in the ponds (which will free up pond space). >The Program Director's office will develop a briefing statement and bring this up at the December Biology Committee meeting.
- i. Floodplain synthesis report and floodplain land acquisition cost estimate - Bob Muth said the revised draft synthesis report sent to Biology Committee on November 18, 2002, and will be discussed at the December 10 meeting. >The Program Director's office will e-mail the report to the Management Committee, as well. >Bob Muth will meet again with Brent Uilenberg to develop the cost estimates.
- j. Flaming Gorge EIS process - Brent Uilenberg said the preliminary draft will go to cooperating agencies by the first week in December. If no major issues are raised, a draft EIS will be released for public review and comment in late February 2003; hearings will be conducted in March and April; comments will be addressed and the final EIS published in June; and a Record of Decision made in July 2003.
- k. Information and education for nonnative fish control - Bob Muth distributed a 1-page update.
- l. Habitat workshop(s) and strategic plan - The first workshop scheduled for December 11-12 in Grand Junction. Because some key geomorphologists (e.g., John Pitlick, Jack Schmidt) can't attend, we'll have a follow-up workshop in late January or early February.

- m. Reports status - Angela Kantola distributed an updated reports due list.
 - n. Indiana University student survey - Angela Kantola said she provided the student (Eric Hecox) comments to help improve the survey, which he said he would incorporate. The Program Director's office recommended providing Program committee e-mail addresses to Eric so he can distribute the survey and the Committee concurred.
 - o. Status of scope of work C-18/19 - Brent said he has concerns about the potential significant capital costs that could come out of this in the future. Bob said the scope is being revised to determine where the fish are coming from, then stop and determine what to do next.
 - p. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation accounts - Brent said they haven't received statements from NFWF and asked if the States had received statements. Sherman Hoskins said they received an invoice from NFWF that was significantly less than they expected (which puts the rest of their funds at risk). (As it turns out, this invoice was correct for FY 02. NFWF has not yet invoiced the States for FY 03 because the Program Director's office and Reclamation need to provide final information on the State FY 03 capital contributions). Ray Tenney said payment to the River District for work on the Elkhead project has been significantly delayed. (It was later learned that the payment was transferred electronically on November 19.) Angela said she hasn't received the required statements on the "Section 7" account. The Committee expressed concern about lack of performance from NFWF. >Bob Muth will call Don Glaser and arrange a meeting (preferably) or conference call with Don, the Service, Reclamation, and the States. >The Program Director's office will get Utah the information they need on the amount of funds Utah is to pay this FY (Sherm must have this information before December 4).
4. Elkhead Reservoir enlargement - Tom Pitts distributed a cost analysis alternatives to provide 7,000 acre-feet of water for endangered fish and Dan Birch reviewed the history of those alternatives. Although there are a number of uncertainties, project cost for an 8,500 af enlargement would be ~\$21.5M and the cost of a 12,000 af enlargement would be ~\$22M. Dan showed options the Program can consider which would put more or less burden on capital or annual O&M funds. Brent distributed the Oct. 7 capital budget table, which shows that the Program has just over \$11M for Elkhead, which fits well with Alternate 1. The Committee discussed long-term economy, transit losses from leased Steamboat water, and permanent vs. interim protection of water for the fish. Tom Iseman said Robert Wigington and Dan Luecke have some serious concerns with the current proposals and the high capital costs to the Program which would significantly impact funds available for other Program priorities. Tom said he doesn't believe the environmental groups can support either alternative at this time. The cost of the lease is higher than they anticipated, and they see a limited-term lease as a more affordable and flexible approach. Tom said he sees advantages to the 12,000 af enlargement, but has concerns with the costs of a perpetual lease. Dan Birch said it might be possible to craft a third alternative that would come in at about \$50/af. Noting that our goal is to de-list

the fish, Bruce McCloskey questioned how the Service could look more favorably on interim flow protection than on permanent protection. >Dan will draft a couple of other alternatives, send those out, and meet with Tom Iseman and Bob Muth in advance of the Implementation Committee conference call. Tom Pitts emphasized that whatever alternative we recommend needs to support de-listing, so the Service needs to provide some input on that. Bob Muth said the Service will stand on the recovery goals, which call for protection of flows needed for recovery in perpetuity. The Management Committee will have a conference call at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 5. >The Program Director's office will set up the call and get the information out to the Committee. The Service will be sure to have a representative on that call. >Gerry will post key paragraphs from the August 2000 consensus meeting to the Management Committee.

5. Grand Valley Water Project Fish Screen - Brent said he's hopeful they've reached resolution with the Hayes, but the papers aren't signed yet. If they haven't reached agreement, there will be further delays. John Shields expressed serious concern at hearing about this issue via the press. John stressed that since the decisions made affect overall Program capital costs, the cost-sharing partners should have been informed.
6. Plans for the March 12-18, 2003, D.C. Briefing Trip - The 11th (after the Implementation Committee meeting) will be a travel day. The schedule will be set up similarly to previous years (with not such an early start on the first day). >The Program Director's office will get rooms held at the Capitol Suites. John Shields suggested we try to get participation from New Mexico at all the meetings (especially with the committees). Tom Pitts suggested that calls from other states would be helpful in getting that participation.
7. Agenda for December 9, 2002 (10:30-12:00) Implementation Committee conference call - The primary purpose of call the call is to make a recommendation on Elkhead enlargement. The Committee may also need to discuss NFWF (see item 3.p., above).
8. Schedule next meeting - January 29 (9-4) in Salt Lake City (to be replaced by a conference call if the chairman and Program Director's office decide by January 6 that a meeting isn't necessary) and February 27 (9-4) in Denver. >Robert King will arrange a meeting room for January 29 and the Program Director's office will arrange a meeting room for February 27. Agenda items know at this point include: January 29 - habitat restoration program, 2003 placeholders; February 27 - revised RIPRAP and Program guidance. The Committee encouraged those with update items to provide a 1-page summary in advance of the meeting to help save time on the agenda. >The Program Director's office will request those updates.

ADJOURN: 3:30 p.m.

ASSIGNMENTS

Brent Uilenberg will provide the Program Director's office with capital costs of water Reclamation provides from Ruedi Reservoir to reflect in the pie chart in the annual Program briefing book and the annual Program work plan funding table.

The **Program Director's office** will send a letter to Brian Person outlining how they will account for the funds capital costs of water Reclamation provides from Ruedi Reservoir.

Bruce McCloskey will convey to Tom Blickensderfer and Greg Walcher Tom Pitts' request for a meeting with Randy Seaholm, Eric Kuhn, and Tom Blickensderfer to outline the issues, process, and alternatives for identifying Gunnison River water demands.

Tom Czapla will ask Dale Ryden to include in the San Juan Program's stocking plan that the Upper Basin will try to provide 6" Colorado pikeminnow for the San Juan Program to help make up for their shortage for stocking.

The **Program Director's office** will develop a briefing statement on mixing lots of fish in growout ponds to free up pond space and bring this up at the December Biology Committee meeting.

The **Program Director's office** will e-mail the floodplain synthesis report to the Management Committee, as well.

Bob Muth will meet again with Brent Uilenberg to develop the floodplain program cost estimates.

Bob Muth will call Don Glaser and arrange a meeting (preferably) or conference call with Don, the Service, Reclamation, and the States.

The **Program Director's office** will get Utah the information they need on the amount of capital funds Utah is to pay this FY (Sherm must have this information before December 4).

Dan Birch will draft a couple of other alternatives for Elkhead enlargement, send those out, and meet with Tom Iseman and Bob Muth in advance of the Implementation Committee conference call. The Management Committee will have a conference call at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 5. The **Program Director's office** will set up the call and get the information out to the Committee. The Service will be sure to have a representative on that call. **Gerry Roehm** will post key paragraphs from the August 2000 consensus meeting to the Management Committee.

The **Program Director's office** will get rooms held at the Capitol Suites for the March 12-18, 2003, Washington, D.C. briefing trip (participants will travel to D.C. on March 11th).

Robert King will arrange a meeting room for January 29 and the Program Director's office will arrange a meeting room (near DIA) for February 27. The **Program Director's office** will request 1-page (or shorter) summaries on update items to help save time on the agenda.

ATTACHMENT 1
Colorado River Management Committee, Denver, Colorado
November 20, 2002

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg	Bureau of Reclamation
Bruce McCloskey	State of Colorado
Robert King and Sherm Hoskins	Utah Department Of Natural Resources
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Mark Wieringa	Western Area Power Administration
Mary Henry	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dave Mazour	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
Skip Ladd and 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
Gerry Roehm	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Czapla	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Others:

Ray Tenney	Colorado River Water Conservancy District
Dan Birch	Colorado River Water Conservancy District
Brian Person	Bureau of Reclamation