

DRAFT

**Water Acquisition Committee
Summary Meeting Notes
July 13, 2000**

The Water Acquisition Committee met July 13, via conference call, and reviewed the 2001 Scopes of Work and several other topics capsulized below. Present on the call were George Smith, Chairman; Bob Norman, Vice Chairman; Jerry Olds; Randy Seaholm; Ray Alvarado; Michelle Garrison; Brent Uilenberg; Angela Kantola and Ray Tenney.

1. WAC Comments on the 2001 Scopes of Work and Changes are summarized below:

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Comments and Changes</u>
8	Recovery Program Gage O&M: Recent contacts with USGS indicate that FY-2001 gage O&M costs will be between \$5,299 & \$5,400. The Price River needs to be revised to reflect a cost of \$9,700, which reflects temperature collection and additional flow measurements during the winter. The funding source should be changed to "Section 7 funds" to reflect a non-federal match. Funding in out years should include funds from long term O&M allocations. The WAC will include this funding issue on the agenda for the December or January WAC meeting when the Recovery Program has a better idea of priorities and funding available.
9	Water Right Acquisition consultant: No comments or changes.
CAP-4c	Redlands Gage O&M: No changes were made to the SOW but Tom Pitts questioned why this gage is not included in SOW 8. The Redlands gage SOW includes heavy maintenance of the Redlands fish ladder and funding varies considerably. The project is operated by Reclamation and funded with O&M funds.
19H	Water Acquisition Hydrology Support: No comments or changes.
67	Steamboat Lake Water Lease: No changes but the task of negotiating a new lease should be included in the RIP tracking system.
70	Colorado Instream Flow Protection: No comments or changes.
71	Colorado River Decision System: No comments or changes.
71a	Refinement of CRDSS for Little Snake: Funded in previous year and funds are still available. Work will be completed when input is received from Wyoming.

- CAP-1 Grand Valley Water Management: The project is near contract award. Reclamation is evaluating four bids and funds will be obligated in FY-2000 and will carryover into FY-2001. Two million eight-hundred thousand should be sufficient funding for all the canal checks. The pump plant and the power canal are separate projects and will be in out years.
- CAP-14 Coordinated Reservoirs Operations: Some new tasks need to be added to look at release triggers. The WAC felt it inappropriate for RIP to pay for Reclamations portion of the SOW since little coordination was required in FY-2000, and Reclamations funds should still be available for FY-2001 work. WAC agreed that \$28,800 should be available for FY-2001 based on an FY-2000 carryover.
- 94/CAP-24 Duchesne Coordinated Reservoirs Operations: Modify SOW to show dates of draft report to peer reviewers and the WAC. The date of the final report should be adjusted to reflect an aggressive peer review process. Reporting has improved over the past several months but Tom Pitts still has questions regarding the Service's sufficient progress memo. Chairman will work with Ed Vidmar to revise before Management Committee Meeting in August.
- CAP-25 Coordinated Facilities Study: Bureau transferred \$11,800 to the foundation in FY-2000 that eliminated the need for new funds in FY-2001. The completion date needs to be changed to March 2001. If structural alternatives are identified in the study, it could have significant impacts on 2002 budgets and beyond. The study will be completed by March 2001 with an appropriate peer review process for the draft and review by the WAC. Henry and the water users are concerned that they have not been informed as to what is going on with this project. Randy Seaholm will prepare a memo describing the status of the project and distribute it to the WAC and 15-Mile Reach PBO list server. RIP needs to start thinking about long term funding implications of any structural alternatives that may be identified.
- 19b Biology Hydrology Support: The WAC discussed adding funds to this SOW for real-time monitoring at Echo Park. Based upon comments from the Biology Committee, \$7,500 was added to the budget to cover the cost of real-time monitoring.
- 85a 15 and 18-Mile Reach Channel Monitoring (Pitlick): Tom Pitts reintegrated his concerns that the matrix be completed as identified in the SOW and the report prepared in a timely manner with adequate peer review. The Chairman reported that the FY-2000 SOW has \$5,000 set aside for air photos of the 15 and 18-Mile Reach during low flow. The Service would like to expand the coverage up to Rifle and find funding for this effort. The WAC supported the concept of expanding the coverage if funding can be lined up.
- 85b Green/Yampa Sediment Monitoring: No comment or changes.

- 85c Upper CR Channel Monitoring: WAC deferred to comments by Biology Committee.
- 86 Geomorphology Peer Review: No comment or changes.
- CAP-9 Yampa/Gunnison/Tributary Management Plan: Henry and Angel will review recent changes made by Gerry Roehm. The budget will remain the same and Angela will post the revised SOW on the RIP list server.
- New Start Green and Colorado Sediment Monitoring: Ray Alvarado questioned the status of the proposed work in the 15-Mile Reach to support monitoring for the Coordinated Reservoirs Project. The Chairman reported that RIP staff felt that the technology should be tested at existing sites before the project was expanded to the Colorado River. Based on these comments the SOW was revised to reflect a smaller effort on the Green River at the Jensen and Echo Park razorback spawning bars.

2. Other Business:

Status of the Long Term Ruedi Round II Contract for Endangered Species (from Julie Swanda).

The Eastern Colorado Area Office in Loveland:

- Is Coordinating the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance associated with the contracting action;
- Is developing hydrology information on effects of the contract on the Fryingpan River for NEPA analysis;
- Has drafted the Basis of Negotiation (BON) and will be coordinating the BON through our Regional, Denver, and Washington offices. The expected completion date for review of the BON by our Denver and Washington offices is set for March 2001, provided NEPA compliance has been completed (Angela will add these dates to the RIP tracking System).

Status of the Long Term Green Mountain Reservoir Historic User Pool (HUP) Contract.

The Eastern Colorado Area Office in Loveland:

- Has completed the BON, and the BON is currently in our Denver and Washington offices for review and approval. We are awaiting approval.

3. Next Meeting: Scheduled for October 17 to discuss Colorado River PBO tracking/accounting. The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Service office in Lakewood, Colorado.

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