

Water Acquisition Committee
Conference Call Summary
10:00 am – 12:00 p.m., February 19, 2003

Participants: George Smith, Gerry Roehm, Tom Pitts, Randy Seaholm, Bob Norman, Brent Uilenberg, Ray Tenney, Boyd Clayton, Malcolm Wilson, Bob Muth and Angela Kantola

Assignments are indicated by “>” and at the end of the document.

1. Highline Lake Lease - Reclamation received an appraisal for \$150,000 for lease of storage in Highline Lake. Colorado had proposed \$480,000 which included \$172,000 for the water quality study and now proposes splitting the difference between \$150,000 and \$480,000 for a total of \$315,000. Colorado will formalize this proposal (and will include an explanation of the water quality study) and bring that to the March 3 Management Committee meeting. If the Management Committee approves that proposal, Reclamation would need a letter from the Program Director’s office saying the Committee has approved this amount, then Reclamation can seek Regional Director approval for paying more than appraised value. > Randy Seaholm will work on bringing this to the Management Committee and making sure all the other things are still agreed to between Parks, etc.

2. Update on Phase 2 Coordinated Facilities Water Availability Study for the Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River (CFOPS) - Randy said corrections/modifications have been made to the C-1 model run, the Executive Committee has seen the results, and the alternatives were not changed. The report is in final draft and it’s been recommended that the Water Acquisition Committee review it. >Randy will provide a copy of the draft to Boyd Clayton, John Shields, and anyone else who doesn’t have a copy (and will confirm that Dan Luecke has a copy). >Randy also will send out copies of the comments received to everyone. The Water Acquisition Committee will review the report and the Executive Committee recommendations at the same time (so >Randy will send the report, comments, and recommendations out to the Water Acquisition Committee as one package as soon as the recommendations from the Executive Committee are complete). George Smith said the Service wants to give Dan Luecke plenty of time to review the report and Bob Muth clarified that since Dan was part of the Executive Committee originally, he needs to be part of building the Executive Committee’s recommendations. >Bob Muth and George Smith will contact Dan Luecke today. >Randy will schedule another meeting of the Executive Committee in early March and probably another meeting about a month later. So, within 2 months, they should be able to send those recommendations to the Water Acquisition Committee. Ray Tenney said he thinks that will be workable as long as a general recommendation is acceptable.

3. Update on Duchesne River Issues - George said the Duchesne River flow recommendations are nearing completion and a draft copy of the coordinated reservoir study report should be out for peer review by the end of February. The next step will be to work on agreements to provide water in the Duchesne. Boyd Clayton and Tom Pitts would like copies of the

coordinated reservoir study report when it goes out for peer review; >George will provide those.

4. Green River flow protection - Once the Flaming Gorge EIS is complete, the Program would like Utah to begin working on protection of flows below the Duchesne.

5. Review PD Office suggested changes to the RIPRAP

28 IC2b George will have the Little Snake flow recommendations done by March,
ID1b then will need to be reviewed, so change to final date to 6/03.

30 IB2 Report was completed several years ago.

30 ID1-3 Move dates out one year based on when draft coordinated reservoir report expected to be complete.

32 IA5b Long-term Ruedi lease not completed by 12/02, but still expected in FY 03.

32 IA5e1 >Tom Pitts will check with water users to get a date for this item.

>Bob Norman and Brent Uilenberg will double-check to make sure the revised schedules for capital projects reflect the latest work planning schedule.

6. RIPRAP Assessment

28, IC2b Service now anticipates completing the report on little Snake Flow
& ID1b recommendations by February 2003 (with final by June 2003).

>*32, IA5 Might be reduced by a few thousand acre-feet because not all the Ruedi water was used; >George will check.

33, IB1 Tom Pitts said Chuck McAda told him the revised Gunnison flow recommendations will be out in mid-March.

7. Review of 2004-2005 Program Guidance -

19H Move to "needing revision" and reflect revision to collect data for the PBO.
>Randy noted that Michelle Garrison gave him a revised FY 2003 SOW for #70 and he will send that to George and Angela.

Bob Norman noted that Reclamation will submit a recommendation to include Redlands screen O&M in the FY 04-05 Program Guidance

With regard to Gunnison River sediment monitoring, George noted that USGS is concerned

about the status of the proposal because they need to know very soon if the Program is going to fund some work on this in FY 2003 or they will lose their \$25,000 match. (George suspects the end of April is probably the drop-dead date.) To keep the match, USGS has proposed just doing a literature/data search (\$50K total; \$25K from the Program) to collect existing information on sediment movement in the Gunnison River. Tom Pitts asked what this would add to John Pitlick's literature search. George said Paul von Gerard said he believes there's a good bit of data (e.g., unpublished information at USGS) that could be pulled together. Tom said he'd like to know more before we invest in this. >George will ask Paul to prepare a proposal and will also let him know the Committee expects their final report on Yampa and Green sediment monitoring.

8. Late reports - George said two reports needed to be added to the late report list: 1) John Pitlick's report on the 15 and 18-mile reach; and 2) USGS report on Yampa Green sediment monitoring. >George will give Angela the relevant information to add to the list.
9. Recovery Program GIS - George said momentum seems to be building for a GIS in the Program. Over the years he's been contacted by Brent Snodgrass at TNC who was trying to build a GIS, then Eric Hecock at University of Indiana who wanted to do a GIS (for which Iseman provided Snodgrass's data). Ray Tenney said Don Myer (River District) has been involved in the basinwide interactive map that the I&E Committee has been working on and has been working with the Southwest Data Center. Fairly specific fish data, etc. can be added to the GIS (more than I&E Committee has been discussing). Randy encouraged coordination with Grand Canyon Adaptive Management Program to coordinate with the GIS they're developing (especially for humpback chub data, for example). Ray said the River District will offer to host a meeting to discuss a potential GIS database and server as an important management tool linking fish and habitat data and flows.