

Water Acquisition Committee Webinar Summary
1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m., Friday, March 2, 2012

Participants: Tom Pitts, Dan Luecke, James Greer, Bob Norman, Bart Miller, John Shields, Bob Rice, Jana Mohrman, Tom Chart, Mike Roberts, Patty Gelatt, Michelle Garrison, Tom Czaplá, and Angela Kantola.

Assignments are indicated in the document in bold, preceded by a “>”.

Review/modify agenda and approved the 11/28/2011 meeting summary

Short Updates

- 1) **OMID** – Bob Norman said Colorado has been working hard on the O&M agreement, but he doesn’t think it will be in place in time for a Federal construction contract this year. However, they may be able to start some of the in-canal checks, etc. by having OMID contract for some of the minor construction.
- 2) **Draft Record of Decision for Aspinnall Unit Operation** – Jana said the EIS went out on Wednesday morning. Tom Chart said Steve McCall told him Reclamation will accept comments on the final EIS and try to address them in the ROD. They’ve received some comments from Platte River Power Authority on the draft ROD, but Tom said he didn’t think that they’ve received others yet. As of yesterday, Reclamation was still hopeful that the ROD would be signed in time for spring operations. Patty said the 30 days between the EIS and the ROD will be up on March 24.
- 3) **Green River Flow protection** – James Greer said Utah has gathered most of the information and they have a working model that they are modifying and refining. James plans to post the model for additional review in the next few weeks. The GRUWAT will meet to discuss additional model scenarios (e.g., full demand scenarios, etc.) in the near future. Mike Roberts suggested another technical meeting before the larger GRUWAT meeting; James agreed that would be a good idea. Tom Pitts said he spoke with Heather a few days ago and Reclamation is working to get the Flaming Gorge and Yampa inflows input done by the end of March. The Larval Trigger Study Plan will take at least 6 years, so it will be some time before operational changes would go into effect.
- 4) **10,825 & CFOPS** – Tom Pitts said 10,825 is moving toward completion. Reclamation anticipates a final EA and FONSI by the end of March, then negotiations can begin on the five contracts (no difficulties anticipated) needed to implement the 10825 alternative. Kerry Sundeen contacted Jana about the 10,825 reference materials; Jana said Reclamation told her they would be willing to put those materials on their website, but wasn’t clear that they would remain there permanently. Tom Pitts agreed this material should be preserved; Angela suggested also putting them on the Program’s library on the CWCB Laserfiche website; the group agreed. Tom Pitts said he thinks the next draft of the CFOPs report will be out in early April. The next step will be discussing feasibility of exchanges with the State Engineers

Office. Tom hopes to have this completed by September 1, 2012. The “Ruedi Replacement payment” will be worked on after the 10825 contracts or in the next session of congress.

- 5) **Program's 2012 Green River Spring Flow Request letter** – Tom Chart said last year’s letter talked about timing Flaming Gorge releases to the presence of razorback larvae. A draft larval trigger study plan has been developed by an *ad hoc* Committee, and this year’s letter is tied to that. The plan identifies the range of conditions we want to look at with releases timed to presence of razorback sucker larvae. Comments on the draft study plan and the draft flow request letter are due March 6. Tom will then seek Management Committee via e-mail and hopes to wrap all this up by mid-March.
- 6) **Price River** – Tom Chart said we’ve gone through a couple of iterations of the Price River position paper; Tom Pitts’ submitted policy and technical concerns with the Management Committee in December. Tom Chart has drafted some responses to Tom Pitts’ questions and concerns (both technical and policy issues). The Biology Committee ran out of time to discuss this on February 24, but is scheduled to review the proposed responses to Tom Pitts’ technical concerns on March 6. Subsequently, Tom and Jana will revise the document and then it will go to the Management Committee for final approval.
- 7) **White River flow recommendations** – Jana said she received comments in late November and plans to get the next draft out by mid-summer at the latest.
- 8) **USGS Sediment Transport Report (85F)** – This report has been approved and that Program Director’s office agreed to assemble a group of experts to assist with interpretation of the USGS’ findings (with a \$15K placeholder in FY12 work plan). Possible Sediment Team Members are: Kirk LaGory, Cory A Williams, John Pitlick, Jana Mohrman, Angela Kantola, John Shields, Dan Luecke, Mike Roberts, Brent Uilenberg, Tom Chart, and Tom Pitts.
- 9) **Tusher Wash** – Tom Czaplá said Tusher work is proceeding on two fronts right now. They are discussing feasibility and potential costs (including a coffer dam) of an electrical barrier at the head (intake) of the canal with Smith-Root. A high estimate of power costs for an electrical barrier is ~\$13K. Also, Kevin McAbee, Dave Speas, and Tom Czaplá are preparing an RFP for a mortality study (which likely would be contracted this year, but conducted in FY13-FY14). Bob Norman said based on empirical data from similar runners at other locations, Voith Hydro *estimates* current mortality at ~40%-60% (however, a mortality study still is needed to determine actual fish mortality at Tusher).
- 10) **Review of draft RIPRAP revisions & assessment** – The Committee reviewed and made minor revisions to the draft RIPRAP and assessment. >Dan Luecke will provide suggested revised language on the Yampa and Colorado river “revisit need for instream flow filings” and “depletion accounting report” items regarding how flow protection relates to depletions/expected depletions (by the time depletions are detected, it may be a little late to protect flows). Dan will try to provide this language by Wednesday, March 7 so that Angela can send this out to the Management Committee in advance of their March 21 webinar.
- 11) **Schedule next meeting** and suggest agenda items – The draft CFOPs report will be out in the summer; Jana will keep the Committee updated on this and other items via e-mail, and the

Committee will schedule their next call when it becomes necessary. Michelle Garrison said Colorado's instream flow group and folks they work with at the Water Trust like to speak with Jana and perhaps the WAC at some point about water rights that may help the 15-Mile Reach. Jana added that the Shoshone operations agreement is being circulated, it may impact the 15-mile reach and should be a topic on the WAC agenda in the future.

12) **ADJOURN 2:20 p.m.**