



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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Coordinating and promoting effective protection and restoration of fish, wildlife, and their habitat in the Columbia River Basin.

The Authority is comprised of the following tribes and fish and wildlife agencies:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Coordinating Agencies

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Upper Columbia United Tribes

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

DATE: March 19, 2009
TO: Members Advisory Group (MAG)
FROM: Brian Lipscomb, CBFWA
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the March 17, 2009 MAG Teleconference

Final

Members Advisory Group
Tuesday, March 17, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. PDT
@ CBFWA Office Portland, OR
[MAG Webpage](http://www.cbfwa.org)

Final Action Notes

Attendees:	Phil Roger, CRITFC; Bob Rose, YN; Dave Statler, NPT; Tom Rien, ODFW; Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS; Stephen Pastor, USFWS; Jann Eckman, Tom Iverson, Kathie Titzler, Dave Ward, Patricia Burgess, CBFWA
Phone/WebEx:	Brad Houslet, CTWS; Jason Kesling, BPT; Lynn DuCharme, CSKT; Michele DeHart, FPC; Lance Hebdon, IDFG; Sue Ireland, KTOI; Elizabeth Gaar, Scott Rumsey, NOAA Fisheries; Claudeo Broncho, SBT; Kyle R. Prior, USRT; Bill Tweit, WDFW; Ronald Peters, Cd'AT; Brian Marotz, MFWP; Mike Falter, USFWS; Jim Uehara, WDFW; Neil Ward, CBFWA
Time Allocation:	Objective 1: Participation 100% Objective 2: Technical Review % Objective 3: Presentation %
ITEM 1:	Introductions and Approve Agenda
Action:	The MAG approved the draft agenda as presented. No objections.
Note:	<i>Agenda items are listed in the order discussed.</i>
ITEM 2:	February 17, 2009 MAG Draft Action Notes
Action:	The MAG approved the February 17, 2009 draft action notes as final. No objections.
ITEM 3:	Clarify regional coordination to be achieved through CBFWA relative to implementation of the BIOP and amended Fish and Wildlife Program. Communicate this in terms of a clarified workplan for CBFWA Coordination Project Funding.
Background:	In January 2009, the Members communicated their FY09 funding proposal to Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council). To date, BPA and the Council have not committed to funding CBFWA staff and Member participation to develop essential Research Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E) frameworks for either the Council Program or the BiOp.

Tom Iverson reviewed the efforts toward obtaining funding since the February MAG meeting:

- CBFWA staff met with the Council and BPA staff on February 20th to discuss how CBFWA could support the RM&E efforts in the basin. The discussion did not address that issue but instead centered on the Council's M&E project review process and their list of associated projects under consideration.
- In the March 4th Members meeting, Greg Delwiche, BPA, stated this was his position, supported by regional agreement, to cap coordination funding at 2.4M. The 19 agencies and Tribes would get their share to retain for themselves, or

allocate as desired. When the UCUT, CRITFC, USRT, Kalispel and Spokane Tribes' portions are subtracted from the 2.4M cap, the remaining 1.558M would go to CBFWA, reflecting a 337K shortfall from the requested 1.895M.

- The Members directed the RM&E ad-hoc committee to work with NOAA staff, using the outcomes of the Action Agency's RM&E workgroups, to develop a proposal to produce products to address relevant BiOp RPA priority RM&E needs with the intent to gain the support of the federal, state, and Tribal regional executives for participation in regional RM&E coordination. The MAG was directed to review the proposal prior to Members consideration on April 1st.

Discussion:

Prior to the MAG's discussion and review of the RM&E workplan, Tom introduced a document for MAG review: [Comparison of CBFWA Workplan with NPCC Staff To-Do List](#). CBFWA staff created the comparison by aligning the CBFWA workplan with a 7 page bulleted Council staff to-do list that was provided in an email to Brian Lipscomb from Tony Grover after the workplan was developed. The comparison shows a nearly 1-1 connection between what Tony outlined and the CBFWA workplan with the exception of the RM&E coordination and the regional anadromous fish monitoring program, which previously fell under the Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Project (CSMEP). The intent in providing the comparison was to pursue confirmation from the MAG that they expect to use CBFWA to coordinate these activities with the co-managers. To facilitate a proper response to this information, the MAG suggested that CBFWA staff request to Tony Grover to format his email on Council letterhead as a letter to the Members.

April 2nd Meeting with BPA: Tom Iverson announced that a meeting is scheduled for April 2nd at BPA with Greg Delwiche, Bill Maslen, Brian Lipscomb, and himself, to explain the Members process and intention in preparing the workplan, discuss what work is to be done under the workplan, and how the efforts line up with the Council and BPA work that needs to be done.

MAG and Member chairs, Elmer Ward and Brad Houslet, and CBFWA Membership participation is encouraged as it will send a strong message to BPA that our Members support the work plan as delivered in January.

Members who plan to attend the April 2nd meeting at BPA should contact Brian Lipscomb at brian.lipscomb@cbfwa.org or call 503/229-0191.

RM&E Workplan Proposal: Scott Rumsey, NOAA, presented a proposal for MAG review that was created by the RM&E ad-hoc committee.

Scott stated that some of the intent of developing the workplan was to 1) fill the shortfall in CBFWA's budget by identifying specific RM&E deliverables that BPA and the Council could support funding, and 2) ensure engagement by the state and Tribal members in implementation of the BiOp RPA, and as appropriate, the Accords as well. Scott stated that in his view, to be successful, the overall approach to move forward with the work plan is for the Members to present the workplan to BPA and the Council, versus CBFWA staff presenting the workplan. The Members need to advocate their support of the specific tasks and communicate that CBFWA has a vital role to play in this process.

Scott stated that NOAA is interested in getting the states and Tribes engaged so that the monitoring gaps and the proposals identified by the Action Agencies are ground in reality with what is actually happening on the landscape. Scott emphasized that 1) CBFWA is needed to ensure consistency among the Members input and to help facilitate the integration and the roll-up, 2) there is a huge gap that needs to be filled as far as integration between the BiOp RPA and the implementation of the Accords and there is a need to ensure that implementation of the Accords is cross-walked with implementation of RPA's to ensure that they are consistent and without redundancies, and 3) there is a need for that broader integration of RM&E in the basin but the focus is narrow because in conversations with BPA and the Council it appears that they are going to be most interested in providing funding to support processes that they have ongoing toward success. Scott advised that this proposal will be presented to Barry Thom, NOAA

Regional Administrator, for his review and support.

Tom Iverson offered that the MAG think of this proposal as meeting the RM&E and the regional anadromous fish monitoring program focus in the BiOp and the Accords. CBFWA will still have the forum to do the broader RM&E planning and coordination but this proposal would address the specific needs this year for the anadromous fish monitoring plan.

Scott reviewed the proposal [Preliminary State-Tribal-CBFWA Workplan in Support of Columbia Basin Accords and FCRPS Biological Opinion Monitoring and Evaluation Needs](#) and the MAG provided feedback. In follow-up, Scott requested, on behalf of the ad-hoc committee, that MAG members provide:

- 1) A redline markup of the draft to compliment the notes he's taken in today's discussion. MAG members should submit the redline mark-up or any comments direct to Ken MacDonald at ken.macdonald@cbfwa.org.
- 2) Input on verifying the costs for the respective states and Tribes and CBFWA staff (under VSP Monitoring-related Costs on page 4).

Scott advised that he anticipates the committee to produce a revised draft in the next week or so provided they receive the input from everyone. Tom Iverson added that the intent is for the Members to review and approve this at the April 1st teleconference for presentation to BPA on April 2nd. Tom requested that the committee provide a one page briefing paper, if possible, to aid in the discussions.

Vice-chair Liz Gaar added that with regard to coordination with local recovery and sounding boards in Washington and Oregon, the groups are making progress on having monitoring plans that are addressing VSP. Vice-chair Gaar suggested strengthening the proposal relative to the importance of the CBFWA Members delivering products and coordinating with the locally developed RM&E plans and local groups.

In conclusion, Dave Statler, NPT, acknowledged the newly formed RM&E ad-hoc committee's ability to draft up such a detailed SOW in a relatively short period of time and he extended his thanks to the committee for the work that they have done. Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS, supported Dave's acknowledgement.

ITEM 6:

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) Proposed Changes to PTAGIS Database Update

PIT Tag Steering Committee (PTSC) Chairman Steve Pastor, USFWS, provided an update to the MAG stating that Randy Fisher, PSMFC, intends to contract with new consultants to provide a third party system audit. The new consultants will formulate recommendations for changes or improvements to the PTAGIS system and software, and identify any deficiencies and provide direction for the future. Tech Heads, the consultants previously hired, has an understanding of the complexity of the database and has the technical skills to decipher the information and will assist in interviewing the new consultants. In addition, the PTSC has requested that PSMFC staff be involved in the process as their knowledge of the system is great. Steve stated that the timeline has not been identified as of yet but they anticipate moving the project along as soon as possible.

In response to questions asked by Michele DeHart, FPC, about the expected deliverables for the consultant's contract, Steve advised that a two page list of items was identified by the PTSC and sent to Randy Fisher on March 16th with the assumption that Randy will probably put that in an actual contact at some point.

The PTSC will ultimately make the decision on how to move forward but Steve stated that there is good overall representation on the committee. The discussion concluded with the understanding that the MAG will rely on the PTSC to provide periodic updates, particularly when decisions are made.

Tom Iverson added that all the PSMFC projects are up for review in the RM&E category and that Brian Lipscomb intends to work to define the partnership and relationship between CBFWA and PSMFC. As the Status of the Resource (SOTR) report and the RM&E plan is moved forward, the MAG may want to think about how Members interact

with PSMFC and CBFWA and how efforts can be linked to form stronger relationships.

ITEM 4:**Develop CBFWA spending for April and May of 2009**

Tom Iverson advised that on March 4th, the Members directed Brian Lipscomb to work with the MAG to develop a spending plan for April and May 2009 and to develop a strategy for a Budget Oversight Group (BOG) proposal. In discussions with BPA last week at the Council meeting, CBFWA staff learned that BPA has two contract positions posted: [BPA Contract PDs: F&W Information Management & Fisheries Biologist](#). Greg Delwiche floated the idea to Brian Lipscomb that possibly one or two CBFWA staff members could be detailed to BPA to do the contract work. When the contract position descriptions are compared with the CBFWA workplan, there is incredible alignment with what BPA is trying to accomplish and what Members laid out in the FY09 workplan. CBFWA staff will talk to BPA about the possibility of funding CBFWA to do the tasks rather than hiring contractors. Tom stated that it is anticipated for this conversation to take place at the April 2nd meeting. Tom stressed the importance of having strong Member representation at the meeting to explain the direction provided to CBFWA staff to build the FY09 SOW and to help disprove the perception that CBFWA staff is some type of self-promoting entity instead of staff that performs the work that the CBFWA Members direct.

Another alternative to obtain additional funds that was suggested by BPA in the March 4th meeting was for CBFWA staff to assist the Accord Tribes with developing proposals for the new Accord projects but to date we have not heard back from any of Tribes with a specific opportunity.

Kathie Titzler advised that the BPA COTR communicated on the morning of March 17th that CBFWA will receive a one month no-cost time extension. Kathie explained that the no-cost time extension allows CBFWA one extra month prior to the writing of a contract for FY09 for \$1.5M on May 1st. The last time BPA provided a no-cost time extension for a portion of a contract (in FY08), the contract started on May 1st and ran for 11 months. Kathie will need to confirm the contract length before determining the total deficit.

In follow-up to the discussion at the February MAG meeting with regard to the NPT and WDFW requests for budget increases, Kathie polled the Members, as directed by the MAG, and determined that there are funds that would be unspent by Members for FY08 that could possibly be used for carry-over funds; however, Kathie stated that historically, carry over of funds has not been permitted by BPA. Kathie advised that for the month of April, she will send out a no-cost time extension to the Members that will run until April 30, 2009.

Vice-chair Liz Gaar, NOAA, stated that she concurs with CBFWA staff's determination that the primary duties of one of the BPA postings does align with the tasks in the RM&E committee's draft workplan and that it is time for the Members to demonstrate leadership and help CBFWA staff get the required funding. Liz stated that she was not sure of NOAA's position in encouraging BPA to provide funding to CBFWA but at first appearance it does seem to make sense versus BPA hiring a contractor. Liz stated that she believes that Members have a tendency to have CBFWA staff represent them and she reiterated the importance of Members participation on April 2nd and for that participation to include non-federal Members in attendance as well.

CBFWA staff will provide the spending plan to the Members on April 1st prior to the meeting with BPA on April 2nd.

Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS, suggested that when the MAG members provide their briefing to the individual Members, that it would be wise to advise them to budget their schedule for participation in both meetings on April 1st and April 2nd.

With regard to the BOG proposal, Tom advised that the BOG decision timeframe is in June requiring CBFWA to submit the request by May 1st. This buys a little time to see how negotiations go with BPA before pursuing the BOG process. However, with regard to the strategy, Tom advised that it is unclear how the BOG process will assist in

obtaining funding because the process to resolve coordination was never identified and none of the other coordination projects are moving through the BOG process. The new RM&E proposal may need to go through BOG, but BPA is providing some funding for the BiOp outside of that process. Tom stated that it is important that the Members understand the observation and message that the BOG does not seem to fit for obtaining funding for coordination.

ITEM 5:**Status of the Resource (SOTR) Feedback and Adjustments**

The Council provided comments on the draft SOTR on February 3rd (see [Letter from B. Booth to B. Lipscomb RE: Council Comments on Draft SOTR](#)). CBFWA staff is in the process of integrating the Council comments into the draft.

Tom Iverson brought to MAG's attention the Council's request for comments on their updated list of High Level Indicators (HLI's): [Council Request for Comments: HLI's & Descriptions](#). The Council adopted a list of HLI's in July 2008 but updated them in March 2009. Although CBFWA submitted comments in July 2008 ([CBFWA Agencies & Tribes Letter to Council: HLI Comments July 2008](#)), Tom stated that there is information to add as a result of the Program being finalized. The agencies and Tribes may want to recommend that the SOTR be adopted as the report identified in the final Program. Comments are due April 24th so there is not enough time for the MAG to review the comments prior to being presented to the Members. Bill Tweit, WDFW, stated that they would like to access the information in the CBFWA staff draft for their own use. Tom stated that he expects the draft to be ready by March 30th or sooner if possible.

Action:

The MAG directed CBFWA staff to develop HLI comments to the Council for presentation to the Members for their review and approval on April 1st. No objections.

ITEM 7:**MAG 2009 Meeting Schedule and Logistics**

Chairman Houslet advised that he was experiencing scheduling conflicts with the current schedule of MAG meetings every third Tuesday of the month. Chairman Houslet asked if MAG members would be open to changing the regularly scheduled monthly meeting day for 2009 and provided some alternatives for consideration. It was agreed that CBFWA staff would use the online tool "Doodle" to poll the MAG members based on Chairman Houslet's availability. Vice-chair Elizabeth Gaar advised that it turns out that an alternate day can't be decided upon; she offered her willingness to step in to chair the meetings when the Chairman is in too much of a bind. The April MAG meeting is still scheduled for April 21st.

Upcoming Meetings:

Members April Meeting, Wed, April 1, 2009, 1-4pm (via WebEx)
MAG April Meeting, Tues, April 21, 2009, 9am-12pm (via WebEx)
Council April Meeting, April 14-16, 2009, Skamania, WA

Meeting adjourned.