



# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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**Final**

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

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

#### Coordinating Agencies

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

Upper Columbia United Tribes

DATE: April 25, 2011  
TO: Members Advisory Group (MAG)  
FROM: Jann Eckman, Interim Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the April 19, 2011 MAG Meeting

### Members Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

9:00am – 12:00pm (pacific)

@ CBFWA Office, Portland, OR

[MAG Webpage](#)

#### Final Action Notes

**Attendees:** Doug Taki, SBT; Jason Kesling, BPT; Elmer Ward, CTWS; Edmond Murrell, SPT; Jann Eckman, Tom Iverson, Dave Ward, Neil Ward, Patricia Burgess, CBFWA

**Phone/Webex:** Gary James, CTUIR; William Barquin, KTOI; Brian Marotz, MFWP; Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS; Heather Ray, USRT Foundation

<b>Time Allocation:</b>	Objective 1: Participation	100%
	Objective 2: Technical Review	0%
	Objective 3: Presentation	0%

#### **ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda**

**Action:** The draft agenda was approved with slight modifications to the order of the items to accommodate late arriving participants. No objections.

**Note:** The item order was modified in the meeting; however, these action notes follow the original order of the [agenda](#).

#### **ITEM 2: Draft Action Notes from the February 23, 2011 MAG Teleconference**

**Action:** The MAG [February 23, 2011 action notes](#) were approved as final. No objections.

#### **ITEM 3: FY 2011 Funding Requests: US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes (SPT)**

- The SPT's current FY11 allocation is \$18,000; however, they are requesting \$12,000 in additional funds to allow them to participate in the Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC), Anadromous Fish Advisory Committee (AFAC), and other meetings of regional concern.
- The USFWS did not request funding for FY11; however, they will require funding in the amount of \$6000 to participate in RFAC and other regional meetings. The USFWS will serve as Chair of the RFAC for 2011.

**Discussion:** Tom Iverson reviewed the [funding allocation](#) contained within the [work plan](#) and confirmed for FY 2011 that there is no unallocated placeholder. In order to modify Member funding allocations, funds must either A) be transferred from other Members' allocations or B) be requested through a Budget Oversight Group (BOG) within-year budget modification or reschedule request. Tom advised that the reschedule request could be submitted this week with an anticipated BOG review the first week of May, Council review in June, and a final decision by middle of summer which would be plenty of time to fill these two requests. Tom

added that it could prompt several meetings requiring Members' attendance and support throughout the process.

**Action:** The MAG directed that staff put through a BOG reschedule request for 100K (or whatever amount of unspent funds remain out of FY 2010) to cover the SPT and USFWS funding requests, and to cover any additional requests for the coming year (i.e., money directly linked to tasks that did not get done). No objections.

**Motion Discussion:** Tom Iverson stated that in the process, a level of detail may be requested relative to which Tribe the money is to go to for direct allocation. The MAG stated a preference to not provide that level of detail and that it would be more efficient to operate with an unallocated placeholder versus committing the funds to specific agencies and Tribes.

**ITEM 4: CBFWA Business**

**Discussion:** Jann Eckman presented the most recent summary of [revenues and expenditures as of April 14](#). Jann stated that historically, about \$150-200K remains unspent out at the end of the contract. Jann reminded everyone to get their billings in as soon as possible. They would like to close the year out at the end of April but will hold it open until May 31 if necessary.

**Discussion:** Neil Ward stated that CBFWA 2010 Survey Report was presented at the Members' meeting in Boise and since many of the same people were at that meeting, he would not provide another overview. Neil thanked everyone for their comments and advised that the [CBFWA 2010 Survey Report](#) is available on the website for review and has been forward to Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) as part of the contract requirements.

Neil advised that the RFAC discussed the value of conducting a survey solely on the RFAC. Working with RFAC Chair, Mike Faler, USFWS, Neil will prepare a draft survey for review. The expected date of administration would likely be July 2011.

**ITEM 5: Members' Meeting Summary (Doug Taki, CBFWA Staff)**

**Discussion:** Chairman Taki, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe (SBT), stated that the March 10 Members' meeting in Boise, ID, was a very good meeting and was well attended. CBFWA staff echoed that the meeting was well attended, and appeared positive and upbeat. In addition, the CBFWA Members welcomed the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe (FMPST) into the organization. Tom Iverson advised that in follow-up, CBFWA staff has tried to contact the FMPST to arrange an orientation but have not been successful to date. However, CBFWA staff expects to attend the Upper Snake River Tribe (USRT) meeting on April 29 which is being held at Fort McDermitt and anticipate having an opportunity to coordinate the orientation at that time.

The Members made an assignment to the MAG to start working on CBFWA work plan and budget for FY 2012 and beyond (see Item 8). Tom Iverson briefly reviewed discussion bullets developed by CBFWA staff following the Members' meeting discussion: [Assumptions and Considerations for Developing the FY12 and Beyond CBFWA Work Plan and Budget](#). The MAG will meet in May to continue the discussion on this assignment.

**ITEM 6: April 20, 2011 Meeting with BPA and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) Fish and Wildlife Committee to Update CBFWA Status (Doug Taki)**

**Discussion:** Chairman Taki stated that he did not feel convinced that the Council and BPA staff

really understood that CBFWA was still a strong organization despite losing two members. Chairman Taki requested that CBFWA staff arrange an informal meeting with the Council Fish and Wildlife Committee, and BPA staff, to inform them of the current status of the organization, what is expected for FY2011, and to talk about the future, FY2012 and beyond, and to get their input as we put together our work plan. The meeting was arranged for Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 1:30-3:30pm, at the CBFWA office.

CBFWA staff put together discussion bullets for the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting for MAG review. The MAG provided some feedback and requested some edits to the bullets. It was agreed that Tom Iverson would capture the requested edits and then would forward the discussion bullets to all attendees. The final [discussion bullets](#) document was forwarded to all attendees on April 19.

The expected attendees include Bill Maslen, (BPA); Bill Booth, Joan Dukes, Dick Wallace, Rhonda Whiting, (Council); Doug Taki, SBT; Elmer Ward, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation (CTWS); Gary Aitken, Jr., Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI); Robert Walton, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Edmond Murrell, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe; Jim Unsworth, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG); and Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS. The MAG suggested that Jann Eckman and Tom Iverson of CBFWA staff attend the meeting, on the sidelines, to be on hand to answer any questions that the Members may not be able to answer.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the Member and CBFWA staff attendees to meet for a brief strategy session at 12:00pm on April 20 at the CBFWA office prior to the meeting with the Council and BPA.

#### ITEM 7:

#### **FY 2010-2011 CBFWA Work Plan Implementation Updates**

*Policy Directive 1: Participate in and support ongoing assessments.*

**Update on the Coordinated Assessments Work Plan for anadromous fish and discuss April 21 workshop:** Tom Iverson advised that the next phase for the Coordinated Assessments work plan is the workshop scheduled for April 21 in Portland. They expect about 75 Anadromous Salmon Managers to attend. At the workshop they expect to summarize work from 10 temporary technical staff (hired through StreamNet). The temporary technical staff have developed data exchange templates and data analysis flow diagrams for each of the populations within their assigned agency or Tribe. As a result of this work, we are learning about the data management processes within the agencies and Tribes. It is hoped that out of this meeting we will be able to create an outline and develop a common template for everyone's use for a data sharing strategy identifying necessary infrastructure, the hardware and software to make data sharing more readily accessible, and shared infrastructure so where possible we can gain efficiencies by sharing databases or data stewards.

This project is collaboration between [StreamNet](#), [Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership](#), and CBFWA.

It is anticipated that the work plan will be developed this week with a June completion date and then the next step is to develop the basinwide strategy. Another workshop will be scheduled for the end of July to review and to receive a stamp of approval that the identified projects should be receiving priority for funding by BPA. The list will also include projects that the NOAA could fund to help accelerate implementation of the data sharing framework and also what the individual agencies and Tribes may be willing to commit to funding to improve their own data sharing. Tom stated that they've had enthusiastic participation by

the Members and feel like we are on a good path to developing a data sharing system for the anadromous Viable Salmonid Populations (VSP) data.

**Update on Resident Fish Monitoring Strategies:** Neil Ward started the discussion by stating that with regard to resident fish and data sharing, that they are not there yet with resident fish; however, RFAC will likely use the products developed by the anadromous fish managers with the understanding that modifications will be required to accommodate existing differences between the management of anadromous and resident fisheries.

Neil provided his update on the Resident Fish Monitoring Strategies stating that in March 2010, the resident fish managers began to develop implementation strategies for the Council's Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Reporting (MERR) Plan. The first strategies that were developed were for white sturgeon populations in Zone 6, the Snake River reservoirs, as well as the Upper Columbia River (Lake Roosevelt). Neil Ward indicated that efforts are underway to complete strategies for the Kootenai and mid-Columbia populations as well as update the existing strategies so that they conform to the template that is now being used for other resident fish. Neil indicated that he expects the white sturgeon strategy for the Kootenai and Upper Columbia to be completed/updated by August 2011. A completion date of August 2011 has been identified to ensure the strategies are available for use by the Council and Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) during the Council's Resident Fish Review tentatively scheduled to begin in late-2011. The strategies for the mid-Columbia River populations will be completed by late 2011.

Since October 2010, resident fish managers have been modifying the implementation strategy templates to better represent metrics that are associated with resident fish monitoring and evaluation, as well as reflect information provided by the Council and ISRP. Neil indicated that through several months of collaborative efforts with the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) organization, the format for the bull trout, redband/rainbow trout, westslope cutthroat trout, kokanee, and resident fish substitution species templates was finalized in February 2011. Since the end of February, the managers in the Intermountain and Mountain Columbia provinces have been completing their implementation strategies and are expected to review them April 26-27, in Spokane. Following the review of the strategies, Neil indicated that he and Keith Kutchins (UCUT) would prepare the final documents during May 2011 with an expected review period of June-July and a submittal to the Council in August, in time for use during the upcoming Resident Fish Review.

Neil reported that he has begun to contact managers in other subbasins, where BPA funded efforts exist, in an effort to arrange meetings to discuss the MERR plan and the potential for developing implementation strategies. Neil indicated that a meeting was held the week of April 11 for the Malheur Subbasin and that he will likely be meeting with representatives from the Owyhee Subbasin in early-May. Neil indicated that he has contacted managers in the Flathead, Deschutes, and Hood Subbasins, where several BPA funded efforts are currently being implemented. Neil also reported that he expects to be meeting with representatives from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, pending arrangement of meeting dates.

Neil concluded by stating that there has been confusion around the Council's MERR plan, i.e., what the MERR is and what it is intended to accomplish. To eliminate ongoing confusion, Nancy Leonard, Council Fish, Wildlife and Ecosystem M&E Report Manager, is going to start attending the meetings in person to better represent the MERR plan.

**Update on Wildlife Monitoring Implementation:** Tom Iverson advised that Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC) Chair Scott Soultis, KTOI, is taking the lead in developing the wildlife monitoring strategy. At this time, the High Level Indicators (HLIs) are being identified for wildlife with the intent to demonstrate success in the mitigation program.

**Update on Lamprey Monitoring Strategy:** Dave Ward advised that he and Lamprey Technical Workgroup (LTWG) Chair Christina Luzier have met with Council staff and determined that the LTWG can draft a lamprey monitoring strategy based on the framework of the Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring Strategy (ASMS) and can update the 2005 critical uncertainties document which includes on-the-ground-issues that we don't know enough about or that should take priority. All can be combined into a document that will also answer the specific questions asked by the ISRP. Dave stated that they expect to finalize a draft lamprey monitoring strategy by the end of this calendar year.

**Update on Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) BiOp Hearing:** Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS, advised that May 9, 2011, is the anticipated date of what is expected to be the final hearing on FCRPS BiOp. In the past, prior to the hearing, the judge has sent out letters to the various parties outlining issues and questions for the lawyers to focus on during the hearing but to date nothing has been received from the judge.

**Policy Directive 2: [Status of the Resources \(SOTR\)](#)**

Tom Iverson stated that quarterly updates were completed for March 2011. CBFWA staff is proceeding toward updates on wildlife and bull trout and intend to start creating the external user forums to get input from other users of the SOTR.

**Policy Directive 3: Regional Activity (Tom Iverson)**

- Fish and Wildlife Program Implementation Update
  - Status Report on RM&E Categorical Review  
<http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/budget/2010/rmeap/Default.asp>: The Council took action on 100 of the RM&E projects at their last meeting. The Category B projects are to commence this month with the hope to have decisions by this month's Council meeting.
  - [Wildlife Crediting Forum](#) (WCF): The WCF is just about completed resulting in a comprehensive report that covers the last year and half of work in looking at wildlife crediting within the Program. It is a technical piece of work that lays out the issues and context with the goal to use that document as a foundation to support negotiations of settlement agreements. The document is expected to be done this next month and submitted to Council as a final report. With the submission of the final report, the WCF will most likely dissolve with subregional groups forming to continue negotiating agreements with BPA.
  - Multi-year Action Plans (MYAP)  
<http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/lf/background.htm>: Comments were solicited on the MYAP's in January of this year but to date there has not been any updates following receipt of the comments.
  - Biological Objectives for [Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Reporting \(MERR\) Plan](#): Have not received any definitive information on this process but the rumor is that the next step is to begin working on biological objectives.

**ITEM 8: FY 2012 and Beyond Work Plan Development Issues and Schedule**

**Discussion:** Tom Iverson advised that as directed by the Members at their March meeting in Boise, the MAG will need to start focusing on developing a FY12 and beyond work plan.

Tom reviewed the [presentation](#) with the MAG that he provided to the Members at the March 10 meeting in Boise, ID.

CBFWA staff developed bullets following the Members' meeting discussion for review by the MAG: [Assumptions and Considerations for Developing the FY12 and Beyond CBFWA Work Plan and Budget](#). This is the same document posted and briefly reviewed under Item 5; however, for this discussion, Tom focused on the "drivers" at the end of the document.

Tom asked the MAG: 1) should we determine priorities and request the level of funding necessary? *Or*, 2) do we identify what BPA is going to allow to be funded and build the work plan around that?

It is hoped that after the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with BPA and the Council we will have a better sense of how to move forward. Chairman Taki suggested that notes from the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with BPA and the Council be sent out to the MAG for review.

Tom stressed the tight timeline facing the MAG to get the work done: it is anticipated that by the August 2011 Members meeting we will need to get Members' approval on a five year work plan.

***Upcoming Meetings:***

**CBFWA Members Advisory Group (MAG): Tuesday, May 17, 2011, 1:30pm-4:00pm** (pacific) at the CBFWA office in Portland, OR.

**[Northwest Power and Conservation Council Meeting\(s\) 2011: May 10-11 in Hood River, OR; June 7-8 in Whitefish, MT.](#)**