



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 250 | Pacific First Building | Portland, OR 97204-1339
Phone: 503-229-0191 | Fax: 503-229-0443 | Website: www.cbfwa.org

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 Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

National Marine Fisheries Service

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: November 13, 2012
TO: Members Advisory Group (MAG)
FROM: Doug Taki, Chair
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the October 24, 2012 MAG Teleconference Meeting

Members Advisory Group Teleconference Meeting

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Pacific)

851 SW 6th Ave., Suite 250, Portland, OR

[MAG Webpage](#)

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Doug Taki, Chair; Mike Faler, USFWS; Bob Austin, USRT; and CBFWF/A Staff: Jann Eckman, Tom Iverson, Neil Ward, Binh Quan, and Trina Gerlack

WebEx - Phone: Jason Kesling, BPT; Elizabeth Holmes Gaar, NOAA Fisheries; Phil Roger, CRITFC; and Gary James, CTUIR

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

Action: Item 2.5: Managing Participation Funds for CBFWA Members was added to the draft agenda. The agenda was revised. No objections.

ITEM 2: Draft Action Notes from the September 12, 2012 MAG Meeting

Action: The [action notes for the 9/12/2012 MAG Meeting](#) were approved as final. No objections.

ITEM 2.5: Managing Participation Funds for CBFWA Members

1. Doug Taki, SBT is requesting \$8,000 additional funds to participate in the regional forums affecting fish and wildlife.
2. Mike Faler, USFWS is requesting \$3,000 in additional funds to participate in the regional forums affecting fish and wildlife.

Last year the Members gave Jann Eckman the authority and flexibility to manage and transfer participation funding for Members funding requests as needed, with the expectation that at the end of the contract period funding would be moved from Members that did not fully expend their funds to support Members that over spend their funds. In case of a deficit, funding would be transferred from CBFWA/F staffing to cover over expenditures by the Members.

Action: The MAG approved the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service funding requests and directed Jann to manage the participation funding requested by the Members as she did last year. No objections.

ITEM 3: [NPCC's Program Evaluation Reporting Committee \(PERC\) Recommendations](#)

Over the last few months the NPCC's Fish and Wildlife Committee and Program Evaluation Reporting Committee (PERC) have reviewed the Status of the Resources (SOTR), Northwest Habitat Institute (NHI), Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP), StreamNet, and Coordinated Assessments to confirm how these Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funded projects support the NPCC's information

needs and ongoing initiative to develop High Level Indicators (HLI). The PERC's intention was to use the review to identify opportunities to streamline the NPCC's data management and synthesis processes. The NPCC's PERC provided their draft recommendations to the NPCC Fish & Wildlife Committee on October 3rd and the Committee took action on October 10th. The full Council will discuss the draft recommendations and possibly approve them at the November 10th meeting in Coeur d'Alene, ID.

Neil Ward provided an update of the October 9, 2012 [draft NPCC's PERC recommendations](#) for the PNAMP, StreamNet, and SOTR projects and Tom Iverson provided an update for the NHI and HEP projects.

Neil reported that the Fish & Wildlife Committee recommended a 10-15% budget cut to the PNAMP project, as well as that BPA should find efficiencies through direct contracting. Also, PNAMP is to report annual priorities to, and seek policy-level guidance from the NPCC's Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Regarding the SOTR project, the draft recommendation is for the report be discontinued effective April 1, 2013. The draft recommendation also provides for the formation of a NPCC and BPA steering committee that will develop a one-year scope of work for technical services to support reporting needs. The recommendation does not identify the service provider.

For StreamNet, the draft recommendation is for a 10-15% budget reduction, as well the development of a forum consisting of NPCC and BPA representatives to direct data management including an annual policy guidance meeting with the NPCC's Fish and Wildlife Committee. Also, it has been recommended that there should be a shift in focus to data collected by BPA-funded projects as the priority over all other data managed by StreamNet. Tom I. reported that StreamNet staffs are encouraged by the recommendations because there is apparent policy support and guidance for the StreamNet project.

Also included in the PERC recommendation was that for the Fish Screen Oversight Committee (FSOC). The draft recommendation that is currently being considered is for BPA to continue to support the quarterly teleconference meetings and annual training and workshops of the FSOC. Despite the recommendation, there was no specific language regarding who will provide the coordination and facilitation services.

Tom I. reported that the NPCC Fish & Wildlife Committee recommended no further funding for the NHI project and the NHI data be stored at StreamNet. The NHI project is uniquely qualified to report wildlife habitat indicators for the Program. The Wildlife Focus Workgroup identified three types of HLIs that focus on wildlife habitat and NHI was identified as a source for much of the data necessary to provide those HLIs. Due to time limitations, a template letter was drafted supporting the NHI project and distributed to the Wildlife Focus Workgroup to be sent individually by each supporting member to NPCC and BPA.

The NPCC Fish & Wildlife Committee recommended that the Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP) contract continue and reconvene the Wildlife Crediting Forum to address future plans for HEP surveys, access information such as GIS maps and tools from NHI, and make recommendations to the NPCC. A long term plan will be identified for the HEP Team by January 1, 2013.

In conclusion, it is entirely unclear what the funding levels will be for CBFWF staff to continue any of the facilitation services formerly provided through CBFWA: SOTR, FSOC, Coordinated Assessments, Wildlife Focus Workgroup, Resident workgroups, etc. It is anticipated that following the Council recommendations, negotiations will begin with BPA to define the work that CBFWF will perform for the Program. It is important that the CBFWA Members, and other fish and wildlife managers, engage in the Council's oversight committee that will define the future need for mining, synthesizing and reporting HLIs.

ITEM 4: Wildlife Focus Workgroup Meeting Update

Tom Iverson reported that the Wildlife Focus Workgroup developed a letter supporting the NHI project for reporting HLI for Wildlife. The Wildlife Focus Workgroup is planning to meet once in November and twice in December 2012 to develop a long term plan for the Regional HEP Team.

ITEM 5: CBFWA/F FY2013 Work Plan & Budget

At this time the FY13 CBFWA Work Plan and Budget will not be defined until funding allocations are identified by the CBFWA Members. CBFWA staff expects another month before there is enough clarity to complete the draft CBFWA FY13 work plan and budget. The FY13 general CBFWA work plan will provide the eyes and ears services of previous work plans to the Members by attending meetings, distributing monthly summary reports, and identify priority meeting in the region. There is no funding identified to facilitate the former technical committees effective April 1, 2013. The BPA also removed regional coordination funding for USFWS and NOAA Fisheries from the CBFWA budget. The NOAA Fisheries and USFWS are meeting with BPA to discuss where the funding went and if BPA will allocate that money to the coordination and data management projects, and technical committee forums. Jen Bayer and Elizabeth Holmes Gaar are supporting funding for the Coordinated Assessments efforts to continue to be facilitated by Tom Iverson through the Foundation.

Tom I. stated that he had heard from the Kootenai Tribe, Warm Springs Tribe, and Umatilla Tribe that their funding allocations to the CBFWA budget would likely be status quo. He has not heard back from Yakama Nation. The Upper Snake River Tribes are discussing alternative uses for their regional coordination funding. There is a strong possibility that Burns Paiute Tribe will not be allocating any dollars to the CBFWA budget. The Burns Paiute Tribal Council is meeting on November 1st. The CBFWA staff should have a better idea of the budget allocations by December 2012.

Action: The MAG participants directed staff to draft a letter from Doug Taki, MAG Chair to each MAG representative requesting each Member Agency's regional coordination funding level commitment for FY 2013 CBFWA work plan budget prior to the next MAG meeting. No objections.

ITEM 6: Other Regional Updates**Coordinated Assessments: EPA Proposal Update**

- [CA Soliciting Tribal Partners for a CA Exchange Network Grant Application](#)
- [CA Working Draft EPA Grant Proposal Project Narrative](#)
- [CA Working Draft Budget](#)
- [CBFWA Draft Letter Supporting Grant Proposal](#)

Tom Iverson reported that the Coordination Assessments (CA) project adopted their Phase IV work plan in August and completed the initial Data Exchange Template (DET). Part of the CA efforts is to develop a CA Exchange Network Grant application for EPA's Exchange Network Program. The grant application is due November 9, 2012, but won't be implemented until August 2013. The 2-year grant is seeking funds for \$500k to support the implementation of data flows based on the CA DET. The CBFWA did not qualify as lead entity for the grant. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) will be the lead entity, although funding will be distributed to all of the CA partners based on their readiness to implement the DET.

Tom I. presented a draft letter from the CBFWA Chair to Director Phil Anderson, WDFW supporting the grant proposal. The draft letter is a general support for the grant proposal submitted by WDFW to be consistent with the strategy developed by the CA project about automating the DET where it is applicable. This cost share funding will speed up the implementation of the CA DET and help build the data sharing system in the Columbia

River Basin. Funding for this effort from EPA does not compete with any other Member funding opportunities.

Phil Roger stated this effort is not a priority for the Tribes because they don't have the staffing to participate and they are seeking BPA's funding support for their FTE data stewards. Without BPA support, they will not be able to actively participate in the EPA funded portion of the CA project.

Action: The MAG directed staff to contact all CBFWA Members first and get their approval before forwarding the grant support letter to the WDFW by October 31, 2012. No objections.

Update: On November 13, 2012, the CBFWA Members approved the letter supporting the grant proposal and it was signed by Doug Taki, MAG Chair and sent to Director Phil Anderson, WDFW. The final letter was carbon copied to Brodie Cox, WDFW, Coordinated Assessments Work Group, Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership, CBFWA Members, and Members Advisory Group.

[Future of Our Wild Salmon Conference – A Focus on Hatchery Policy](#)

Phil Roger reported that CRITFC hosted a successful conference and the staff will be debriefing this week and the presentations should be posted for review by next week.

[Columbia River Treaty Review: Progress Report Seminar](#)

On November 7, 2012, in Portland, the BPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be providing a progress report on the Columbia River Treaty 2014/2024 Review.

[Northwest Power and Conservation Council](#)

Elizabeth Holmes Gaar, NOAA Fisheries informed the MAG that representatives from NOAA Fisheries would be presenting ESA reviews of Hatchery Genetic Management plans, , supplementation and hatchery policy to the Fish & Wildlife Committee at the November 6, 2012 NPCC Meeting in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Some of the members asked when an update on the Snake river recovery planning for fall Chinook would be presented. Elizabeth said NOAA staff is working on it and plan to talk with a small group of science experts before they provide the update by the end of the year.

ITEM 7: Next MAG Meeting

Action: The next MAG meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2012 from 1:30-4:00pm to review the FY 2013 CBFWA/F work plan and budget.

Upcoming Meetings: Oregon AFS [Anadromous Run Forecasting Workshop](#): Nov. 6-7, 2012, Portland, OR
[Northwest Power and Conservation Council](#) Meeting(s): Nov. 6-7, Coeur d'Alene, ID and Dec. 4-5, Webinar and Council Meeting

[Columbia River Treaty 2012-2024 Review Update Meeting](#): Nov. 7, 2012, Portland, OR