



**COLUMBIA
BASIN
FISH & WILDLIFE
AUTHORITY**

DRAFT

May 22, 2001

TO: CBFWA Members

FROM: Jann Eckman

SUBJECT: Draft 4/12/01 Members Meeting Action Notes

**CBFWA MEMBERS MEETING
April 12, 2001 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
April 13, 2001 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Yakama National Cultural Heritage Center
Toppenish, WA**

DRAFT ACTION NOTES

Attendees: Guy Dodson, SPT; Steve Judd, CTCR; Ric Ilgerfritz, NMFS; Ron Anglin, ODFW; Lionel Boyer, SBT; Rod Sando, IDFG; Randy Settler, YN; Bill Shake, USFWS; Jay Minthorn, CTUIR; Don Sampson, CRITFC; Larry Peterman, MDFWP; Albert Teeman, BPT; Brian Lipscomb, CSKT; Bill Wiles; UCUT, Warren Seyler, STOI; Robert Matt, CdAT; Phil Roger, CRITFC; Yvonne Smith, YN; Rhonda Swaney, CSKT; Jim Caswell, OSC; Andre Talbot, CRITFC; Tom Dayley, NWPPC; Bert Bowler, IDFG; Lynn Hatcher, YN, Fred Olney, USFWS; Carl Scheeler, CTUIR; Brian Walsh, NWPPC; David Byrnes, BPA; Chad Colter, SBT; Ron Boyce, ODFW; Jeri Minthorn, CTUIR; Amos First Raised, BPT; Paul Lumley, CRITFC; Alex Smith, BPA; John Palensky, NMFS; Dave Statler, NPT; Bob Foster, WDFW; Jim Harp; Robert Austin, BPA; John Brogoitti, NWPPC; Sharon Warnock, NWPPC; Bob Lohn, NWPPC; Dale Bambrick, NMFS; Roy Sampsel, CRITFC; Theodora Strong; YN; Jeff Koenings, WDFW; Greg Delwiche, BPA; Larry Cassidy, NWPPC; Col. Mogren, USACE; Elbert Moore, EPA; Brian Walsh, NWPPC; Ron Peters, CdAT; Joe Mentor & Peter Dykstra, MentorLaw; Huey Johnson, Aldo Leopold Society; Jann Eckman, Brian Allee, Tom Giese, Amy Langston, Tom Iverson, Frank Young, Neil Ward, Kathie Titzler, Cheron McGuffey, Tana Klum, CBFWA

By Phone: N/A

Time	Objective 1. FY 2001 Renewal Process	%
Allocation:	Objective 2. Rolling Province Review and Subbasin Summaries	%
	Objective 3. FY 2000 Adjustments	%

ITEM 1: Energy Crisis and the Impact on Fish and Wildlife

Power Panel

Discussion: This may not be a long-term rather than a short-term problem. Larry Cassidy said that the NWPPC has recently released a paper for review and comment proposing recommendations for emergency measures under the drought conditions to protect fish, meet the energy needs, and keep BPA financially solvent so we can continue mitigation and ESA work. He urged the members to review and provide comment on the document. Greg Delwich said BPA has put together principles for hydrosystem operations. The bottom line is to remain solvent, meet loads, and keep reservoirs at operating levels. BPA not being solvent is going to have a major affect on being able to meet the ESA and fish and wildlife mitigation requirements. The storage issue is if there is not enough water to meet the load what will happen if we have another drought next year. Refill failure for this year has serious consequences for system reliability next year. Don Sampson said the CRITFC is very concerned about the Principles the federal agencies put together specifically the emergency declaration and rate case. CRITFC has treaties not with BPA but with the Government. BPA has reduced fish operations but no one is talking about deferring the treasury payment. BPA should not be able to make such decisions without more oversight and looking at all the steps. BPA has put fish and wildlife obligations last on the totem pole. Randy wanted to know if the federal executives "Principles" document recognize in writing the Tribal treaty rights and BPA's trust responsibilities. Jeff indicated for WDFW those treaty rights are present in their decisions. Warren said that every conversation he hears talks about using water. As a Tribe in the blocked areas, their concerns should be considered, not just use the water to save salmon and California. Jeff and Greg indicated that was a concern of theirs too. Warren said that everywhere else in the world the feds forgive debt or waive payments. But BPA said politically there is a potentially hostile takeover of our electricity system and that is not what is in the Northwest's best interest. It is best to remain financially stable.

Fish Panel

Discussion: Larry discussed the impacts on the Hungry Horse and Libby reservoirs in Montana. We tend to look at this as an isolated instance and its not. As a society we tend to want to drill, generate or mine and if we do that there are other significant impacts. We need to recognize that there are going to be other droughts, it is not unusual especially East of the Divide, more in Montana. The water demands now are unscheduled and coming at times that are inappropriate for resident fish. This affects the probability to refill which affects the management of resident native species. System reliability must be matched with power demands, but this energy situation has impacted their capability to mitigate for native species. The snow they are getting now isn't going to sink into the soil and refill streamflows and tributaries, the land is too dry. No water in Spring for white sturgeon. The

energy crisis and our propensity to build our way out of it, we need to look at the impacts on other resources. We must try and reduce demand rather than rely on new generation methods. Bill Shake said that we need to remember that there are viable fish resources above Grand Canyon and Coulee, it is not a giant storage valley for salmon. The USFWS has developed biological opinion that balance these needs. The Principles were developed to identify when you would determine the priorities and use the water. Ramping rates are important to stream flows and potential stranding. Minimum flow issues critical in resident fish needs. Rhonda Swaney discussed the impact on resident fish in the blocked areas. Flathead lake is the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi. Clark Fork and Flathead lake are used by the Tribes for ceremonial purposes. Also have many Tribal ancestral grounds affected by water levels. Flathead Lake has become a private playground for people who have big homes and carry a large political impact. USFWS published their conditions that were very favorable to fish and wildlife. Established minimum flows (not optimum). Montant has only received about 60% average snowpack. The Salish Kootenai must prepare a drought management plan which will include social and economic impacts. Tribe is concerned that the emergency management tools that the feds are putting in place will affect their management plan that they worked so hard to develop, adopt and implement. To address will need cooperation with the entire region (West of Rockies). What would happen if we had a drought like this before the dams? Less reliance on electricity, change values and needs. Warren said another impact that is being caused by fluctuating stream flows for salmon and energy is the banks are eroding more and more areas, uncovering grave sites, etc. Now people are coming out to steal grave sites for artifacts. They are trying to get funding for enforcement of open gravesites. Banks are eroding where never done before.

Mainstem Panel

Discussion: Rick said the situation is bleak and additional details will be discussed 4/13. Full transport in Snake and looking at McNary. Minimum impact in Snake cause NMFS can access collection and transport there. what happens in lower river when they are released, they don't know. Spill, don't know, no expectations that they will be able to do more than what's been described this morning. Don S – comments on Fed Op Principles. CRITFC did not agree with the BiOp. Looking at 1977-expecting under current conditions survival rates will be similar to 1977. This huge investment is now starting to pay. NWPPC paper that was released – flawed and will provide comments. Tribal Energy Plan that they are putting together calls for reducing energy demand on river, calling for BPA to defer energy payment. Tribes can play an important role in the long-term energy vision to present to the current Administration. Lionel said this is a large return. Consider what Elders say, look to Creator and people. This may be a sign that we have lost a lot of resources due to economic choices. ShoBans look at cycles. Salmon become part of a

system and the dams have interfered with that cycle – the Federal Dams have destroyed 50% of the salmon in their Tribal lands. Sho Bans were removed from their lands. These fish have identified that the four lower dams are the problem for salmon survival. If those dams were removed to provide for more natural flows, we may not be discussing the problems we are discussing today. We are losing a culture and tradition and will be losing something more in the future. Lionel has his tradition and culture and we must consider what we have learned from our elders. But progress will continue to move on and traditionally destroys cultures. Culture lost, we cannot get back. What will replace it? Ron Anglin said society needs to change, energy use and comfort must be evaluated. ODFW looking at shutting down fisheries on Wednesday next week. Through the summer low and warm water issues will affect the fish and harvest will be implicated. We need to be cognizant of fish and harvesting so we don't impact already stressed fish further. Jeff K – WDFW has leased water rights to put water back in river. Emphasized this is a short term solution (one year). It is very difficult to balance water rights for people and for fish when there is no solid information available for fish and CBFWA needs to collect that info and deliver that info to policy makers so they can carry that info to the other policy makers who make the operating decisions. Bert asked about the “pulsing” operation, is this really beneficial and is there evidence that indicates it is. Jay Minthorn there elders before them heard the commitment of the Power Panel before them that there will be a double of resources and adequate power, so Jay said this has to be protected. Venita Bar flows must be protected. This is everyone's resources. We don't prioritize our resources. How about water quality? Johnny Jackson could drink water from Celilo Falls. Not today. Jaysaid he hasn't heard we have a “drought crisis” no one says. Energy -we are hurt today by our progress. This is a Treaty crisis. Our Tribal direction is understood protect our resources and we need o remember that I have seen the great Columbia River. Now it is not “roll on columbia roll on.” Fourteen years ago water temp was a problem, still is. now he wants to hear a resource plan that everyone can benefit from – not only energy, but plants, fish, wildlife, etc. Randy says he remembers disucssion with BPA reps that they would meet the fish and wildlife obligations through the MOA but now BPA has had to spend a lot of money to meet load requirements and bank account is empty for fish and wildlife. NMFS BIOP set some standards that NMFS would make a recommendation to have the dams removed as those actions and needs where not taken.

ITEM 2: Item title

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