



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

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 & 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: April 7, 2009
TO: CBFWA Members
FROM: Brian Lipscomb, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the April 1, 2009 Members Teleconference

**Members Teleconference
Wednesday, April 1, 2009
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
CBFWA Office, Portland OR (via WebEx)**

Meeting support material are posted at
<http://www.cbfwa.org/committees/Meetings.cfm?CommShort=Members&meeting=all>.

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Chairman Elmer Ward, CTWS; Tom Rien, ODFW; Kyle R. Prior, USRT; Brian Lipscomb, Jann Eckman, Kathie Titzler, Neil Ward, Dave Ward, and Trina Gerlack, CBFWA staff

Phone/WebEx: Gary James and Carl Scheeler, CTUIR; Jim Unsworth, IDFG; Chris Hunter, MFWP; Dave Statler, NPT; Rob Walton and Scott Rumsey, NOAA Fisheries; Claude Broncho and Doug Taki, SBT; Carol Perugini, SPT; Dan Diggs, USFWS; Nate Pamplin, WDFW; and Tom Iverson, CBFWA staff

Time Allocation:

Objective 1. Committee Participation	100%
Objective 2. Technical Review	%
Objective 3. Presentation	%

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

Draft agenda item 6 "Council Request for Comment to Develop High Level Indicators" was modified as an update and is no longer a recommended action, because the Council has extended the comment period until May 18, 2009.

Action: The Members approved the agenda as modified. No objections.

ITEM 2: Approve March 4, 2009 Members Draft Action Notes

Action: The Members approved the March 4, 2009 Members Teleconference action notes as final. No objections.

ITEM 3: March 10-12, 2009 Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) Meeting Update

Background: A face-to-face meeting is scheduled for April 2nd at Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) with Greg Delwiche, Bill Maslen, Brian Lipscomb, and Tom Iverson, to explain the Members intention and process in preparing the work plan, review the work to be done under the work plan, and line the efforts up with the Council and BPA work that needs to be done. The Members Advisory Group (MAG) and Member chairs, Elmer Ward and Brad Houslet, and CBFWA Membership representation is desirable to send a strong message to BPA that our Members support the work plan as delivered in January. The subject matter in item 4 and 5 to be discussed next on this agenda will also be a part of the April 2nd meeting discussion.

If you are planning to attend, please contact Brian Lipscomb at brian.lipscomb@cbfwa.org or call the office at 503/229-0191 to confirm your intent to attend the meeting at BPA.

Discussion: Brian provided an update of the conversations that took place in Boise regarding the CBFWA proposed work plan and budget request for FY09 and from those conversations with Greg Delwiche and Bill Maslen they agreed to schedule the April 2nd meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to adjust how BPA views CBFWA's work, because BPA may view CBFWA as an organization that provides strategic planning to build the F&W Program, BiOp, and their elements, and not as an entity that moves forward to implement those developments. Brian articulated to Greg that view was erroneous, because the CBFWA Members crafted the work plan from the perspective of implementing the Program and assisting BPA in implementing the BiOp.

Brian recommended after reviewing the draft RM&E proposal the Members develop a conversation for the April 2, 2009 CBFWA-BPA meeting.

Rob Walton, NOAA reported that Tony Grover, NPCC will be in Judge Redden's Chambers on April 2, 2009 and will not be available to attend the scheduled CBFWA-BPA meeting and BPA is considering a meeting postponement.

The Members continued waiting further notice from BPA.

Action: The April 2, 2009, BPA-CBFWA Face-to-Face Meeting was postponed and is anticipated to be rescheduled for a date after April 15, 2009. Brian Lipscomb will contact BPA for tentative dates and report back to the Members.

ITEM 4: Review and Approve Draft Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E) Work Plan Proposal

Background: At the March 17th MAG meeting the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) ad hoc work group presented a draft work plan that 1) clarified tasks to produce products to address relevant BiOp RPA priority RM&E needs and, 2) NOAA could support producing through CBFWA to assure products consistent and integrated among BiOp, Accords and local work groups.

The Members need to advocate their support of the specific tasks and communicate that CBFWA has a vital role to play in this process.

Discussion: Brian provided an overall briefing of the work plan status. There are two pieces to make-up the whole:

- 1) Coordination to implement the planning to implement the amended Program. The amended Program is loaded with additional planning activities that need implementation this year and continue over the next several years, which CBFWA crafted their work plan to do.
- 2) Coordinating the implementation of BiOp M&E to assist the Action Agencies and NOAA to assure that M&E for the BiOp is being designed and implemented in an effective and efficient method.

Brian stated, the CBFWA work plan proposal was approved and distributed in January 2009 and the Council's amended F&W Program was distributed in February 2009. Since that time, CBFWA has received from Tony Grover, NPCC, a 5-page 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program to-do list of work items that need to be accomplished over the next year. Also, in the meeting packet is a Gantt chart listing a timing schedule to-do the NPCC Program tasks, and a comparison document of CBFWA's work plan to the Council's to-do list, and the planning part is a one-to-one match. CBFWA has captured the same issues and commitments identified by the Council to implement into the Program.

Brian recommend that Members review these documents and prepare for a future meeting with the Council to discuss this information to address the Program work commitments that need to be completed with the fish and wildlife agencies and Tribes participation in the implementation process and amendment developments as outlined in the CBFWA coordination work plan.

Brian referenced the March assignment from the Members to work with RM&E ad hoc

committee and develop an extensive monitoring and evaluation proposal to take to BPA via NOAA Fisheries for consideration to assure effective implementation of the BiOp M&E.

Brian lead the review while the Members provided edits to the subcommittee's draft M&E proposal that they developed over the last 4-weeks. The subcommittee developed two pieces 1) the preliminary draft Viable Salmonid Population (VSP) M&E work plan in support of the BiOp and Accords and 2) the draft M&E work plan that addressed habitat.

Brian incorporated the edits while the Members began a detailed review of the purpose and need on the first page and the following five tasks in the preliminary draft VSP monitoring proposal. The Members expressed concerns regarding 1) the new language and direction in the draft; 2), task descriptions and task deliverables tone; 3) unlisted and non-listed stocks and a need for a comprehensive monitoring plan; 4) the need to verify the Accord and MOA parties support and funding needs on the FTE listings under VSP Monitoring-related costs by identifying and confirming the participants.

Scott Rumsey, NOAA verified that the gap analysis is not independent of the Action Agencies work and should review, verify, and improve the gap analysis that comes out of the BiOp work groups.

Rob Walton and Scott suggested the language in the draft proposal would be more successful if the approach were orientated towards CBFWA reviewing BPA's work and helping them succeed rather than providing independent analysis.

Dan Diggs, USFWS requested that Scott and Rob review the language in the revised draft and provide comments. Rob and Scott said they would provided comments and suggested the key deliverables be the focus.

Dave Ward, CBFWA staff, Tom Rien, ODFW and the M&E subcommittee have concerns relating to the draft RM&E Habitat proposal because it is underdeveloped due to time limits and task sizes. Scott suggested that the RM&E proposal would be stronger with the habitat piece as it relates to habitat effectiveness monitoring for the Accords and integrating that into the BiOp RM&E would achieve BPA's support.

Brian Lipscomb will direct staff to work with the M&E subcommittee to complete the [Draft M&E Habitat Proposal](#) for Members consideration and inclusion with the VSP M&E Proposal.

- Actions:** Members' actions relating to the [Revised Preliminary Draft RM&E Work Plan Proposal](#) in support of the FCRPS BiOp and Columbia Basin Accords:
1. The Members directed staff to work with the Members directly, to finalize the VSP M&E proposal revised during the meeting.
 2. Forward the revised draft to the RM&E subcommittee to verify any changes.
 3. Members direct staff to schedule a special Members teleconference on April 15, 2009 to take final action on the proposal and prepare for communicating the proposal to BPA and the Council.

No objections.

ITEM 5: Update on CBFWA Spending Plan for April and May of 2009

Background: The MAG and staff are developing a spending plan for April and May 2009, consistent with the \$1,895,201 proposed spending level. The MAG postponed the development of a strategy for a Budget Oversight Group (BOG) proposal until after the April meetings with BPA and Council. BPA has two contract positions posted: [BPA Contract PDs: F&W Information Management & Fisheries Biologist](#). Greg Delwiche suggested that possibly one or two CBFWA staff members could be detailed to BPA to do the contract work. When the BPA contract position descriptions are compared with the CBFWA work plan, they align with what BPA is trying to accomplish and what Members proposed in the FY09 work plan. On April 2nd, CBFWA will discuss with BPA the possibility of funding CBFWA to do the tasks

rather than hiring contractors. It is important to have 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.

BPA has granted a no-cost time extension to CBFWA for the month of April. When Kathie Titzler receives the extension from BPA, she will send the no-cost time extension to the Members. The BPA no-cost time extension allows CBFWA one extra month prior to the writing of the FY09 contract for \$1.558M on May 1, 2009.

Discussion: Brian referred to the previous discussion relating to CBFWA funding issues. The MAG and staff are in the process of developing a spending plan to mitigate the potential effects from that budget reduction. Brian updated the Members of the following strategies: 1) complete the M&E proposal, 2) approximately \$180k has been identified in the staff portion of FY09 CBFWA annual work plan. CBFWA requested and BPA has agreed to a no cost time extension for at least month and maybe two, if further funds are identified as we close out FY08 and enter FY09. BPA is allowing the carry forward into the next fiscal year and subsequently develop a shorter contract as we continue to work on these other issues with regards to M&E part of the work plan. The magnitude of carry forward will depend on the Members' spending and billings sent to Kathie as they close out their FY08 contracts. The carry forward could go up and give CBFWA more time. 3) Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Foundation (CBFWF) is contracting with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall (SBT) to assist them in implementation of their accord, specifically a development of a strategic plan to implement their accord in a 10-year period and develop three new proposals for the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) review process for final implementation by the SBT. 4) BPA has identified two contract position descriptions linked above. BPA has asked CBFWF to look at those contract position descriptions and consider if CBFWF could contract and provide the services articulated in those position descriptions currently advertised. Specially the coordination of RM&E for the BiOp and implementation of the Hatchery Science Review Group (HSRG) recommendation for the hatchery portion of the BiOp.

Brian is optimistic that CBFWA can get through this funding crisis and will continue to update the Members.

ITEM 6: Council Request for Comment to Develop High Level Indicators (HLI)

Background: "The Council is interested in developing a list of high level indicators to communicate its Fish and Wildlife program's progress to the region's Governors and to Congress. The Council is requesting public comment on a draft list of seventeen possible indicators in an effort to stimulate discussion and to begin the process of aligning, as appropriate, with existing high level indicators used by others in the region in reporting the status and trends of the region's natural resources." Comments are due by April 24, 2009. Review Council's request at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/hli/Default.htm>.

Discussion: Brian provided an update of the Council request for comments to develop HLIs.

The Members did not take action on this item because the Council extended the deadline for accepting comments on developing High Level Indicators to May 18, 2009: <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/hli/Default.htm>

The CBFWA draft comments to develop HLIs are similar to comments provided to the Council in the past. The MAG will review the draft letter with comments on April 21st and prepare a recommendation for Members consideration at the May 6th teleconference.

ITEM 7: Update on Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) Proposed Changes to PTAGIS Database

Background: The PIT Tag Steering Committee (PTSC) annual meeting was held on February 24, 2009 and Steve Pastor, USFWS, was elected chair for the upcoming year. At that meeting, Randy Fisher explained PSMFC's contract with Tech Heads (software consulting firm) and their

efforts to evaluate the current PTAGIS software and explore opportunities for improvement. The Tech Heads consultants are being hired to evaluate the status of the PTAGIS database and will prepare an RFP for a third party audit and recommendations for possible changes or improvements to the PTAGIS software. Steve Pastor attended the March 17, 2009 MAG meeting and provided an update. Michele DeHart, FPC asked about the expected deliverables for the consultant's contract. Steve stated that a list of items were identified by the PTSC and sent to Randy Fisher on March 16th assuming he will add them into the actual contract. Steve added, that PTSC will decide how to move forward and there is good representation on the committee. The MAG will rely on the PTSC to provide updates on their decisions.

Discussion: Brian stated there are approximately 40M of projects under PSMFC that focus on the collection and warehousing of data, some of which CBFWA accesses for the SOTR report. The PIT Tag Steering Committee (PTSC) appears to be the only formal mechanism that CBFWA Members have to work with Randy Fisher, Executive Director of PSMFC and responsible party for those contracts. Over the next year, implementation of an amended Program and the BiOp will most likely prompt an extensive review of all the projects that reside at PSMFC. To assure some influence over contract modifications, for example, the implementation of the amended Program and BiOp, the Members should consider meeting with Randy to maintain input in the decision process that affect those projects at PSMFC. Brian suggested that the Members invite Randy Fisher to the May 6th meeting to discuss the anticipated reviews and how CBFWA Members can effectively work together to assure any changes identified are adequately vetted through the CBFWA Members. CBFWA staff will work with the MAG to clarify this agenda item

ITEM 8: Update on Status of the Resources (SOTR)

Background: The Council provided comments on the draft SOTR (see [Letter from B. Booth to B. Lipscomb RE: Council Comments on Draft SOTR](#)). In February, Brian Lipscomb stated that most, if not all, of the Council's comments could be accommodated. The CBFWA staff is integrating the Council and Action Agencies' comments into the draft for review. A meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2009 to discuss their comments. BPA is more understanding of the value of the SOTR to support their reporting requirements.

Discussion: Brian Lipscomb reported that the SOTR has been presented to the Council and, per NOAA Fisheries and USFWS request, the Federal Caucuses who all provided extensive comments on the draft SOTR. CBFWA staff has addressed and incorporated their comments and a meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2009 from 9:00am-Noon at the CBFWA office to discuss the SOTR changes and anticipate a final draft ready for approval by the CBFWA Members, BPA, and Council when combined with the website will adequately meet the region's needs to consistently report objectives, limiting factors, and accomplishments to address limiting factors, in both the F&W Program and potentially the BiOp. All interested parties were invited to attend the April 3, 2009 meeting.

ITEM 9: NOAA Seeking "Shovel-Ready" Habitat Restoration Proposals – Due April 6, 2009

Background: On March 9, 2009 CBFWA staff forwarded the following notice to the Members. NOAA is formally seeking proposals for a variety of habitat restoration projects - including wetlands restoration, removal of unsafe, obsolete dams, construction of fish passages, oyster and other shellfish restoration and coral reef restoration. To ensure relevance, readiness and accountability to the American public, the 30-day solicitation requires that projects be "shovel-ready." [Proposals are due by April 6, 2009](#). Typical investments by NOAA are expected to range between \$1.5 million to \$10 million per project; applications will be accepted for projects ranging from \$500,000 up to \$20 million.

For more information about this federal funding opportunity, please visit the NOAA habitat recovery website: <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/recovery> or contact Jennifer Steger, Northwest and Alaska Regional Supervisor for the Restoration Center 206.526.4363, Jennifer.Steger@noaa.gov.

- Discussion:** Brian stated that the Shovel-Ready funding comes from the stimulus package to improve habitat across the region.
- Rob Walton, NOAA stated groups from the Washington's Governors office and OWEB and others have been advising other people on their approach. The NOAA Restoration Center is handling this effort, not the regional office. This is nationwide evaluation and only \$170M is allocated for this effort. All questions should be directed to Regional Restoration Center.
- Upcoming Meetings:**
- April 2, 2009 – BPA-CBFWA Meeting was postponed and is anticipated to be rescheduled for a date after April 15, 2009. Brian will contact BPA for tentative dates.
- April 3, 2009 – SOTR Meeting at CBFWA office at 9:00am-Noon to discuss comments, changes, and prepare the SOTR for final approval and action by the Members and presentation to the Council.
- April 13, 2009 – Brian Lipscomb, CBFWA has scheduled and Members are encouraged to participate at the 6:00 p.m dinner meeting at the Skamania Lodge with Chairman Bill Booth and Council Members Rhonda Whiting to discuss CBFWA Work Plan. Contact Brian Lipscomb if you plan to attend the meeting.
- April 14-16, 2009 - Council Meetings in Skamania, WA and May 12-14, 2009 in Walla Walla, WA <http://www.nwcouncil.org/>
- April 15, 2009 – Members Teleconference at 1:00-2:00pm to finalize the M&E proposal and strategize for the anticipated BPA-CBFWA meeting.
- April 21, 2009 – MAG Teleconference at 9:00am-Noon.
- May 6, 2009 - Members Teleconference at 1:00-4:00pm to finalize the SOTR and CBFWA Work Plan