



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.

DATE: September 4, 2009
TO: CBFWA Members
FROM: Brian Lipscomb, CBFWA
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the September 2, 2009 Members Teleconference

The Authority is comprised of the following tribes and government 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

Members Teleconference
Wednesday, September 2, 2009
1:00-4:00 p.m. (Pacific)
@ CBFWA Office, Portland, Oregon

Support material is posted on the Members webpage at http://www.cbfgwa.org/committee_main.cfm.

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Chairman Elmer Ward, CTWS; Tom Rien, ODFW
CBFWA Staff: Executive Director Brian Lipscomb, Kathie Titzler, Tom Iverson, Neil Ward, Dave Ward, and Trina Gerlack

Phone/WebEx: Bill Maslen, BPA; Ronald Peters, Cd'AT; Sheri Sears, CCT; Lynn DuCharme and Steve Lozar, CSKT; Gary James, CTUIR; Jim Unsworth, IDFG; Sue Ireland, KTOI; Rob Walton, NOAA Fisheries; Tony Nigro, ODFW; Claude Broncho, SBT; Carol Perugini, SPT; Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS; Keith Kutchins, UCUT; and Nate Pamplin, WDFW

Time Allocation:

Objective 1. Committee Participation	100%
Objective 2. Technical Review	0%
Objective 3. Presentation	0%

ITEM 1: Introductions, Roll Call, and Approve Agenda

A Member requested that Item 7: FY 2010 CBFWA Work Plan Brief be reviewed and moved up in the agenda. The agenda items in these action notes are in the order as they were discussed during the meeting.

Action: The draft agenda was approved as amended. No objections.

ITEM 2: Approve as Final: Draft Action Notes from the [July 9, 2009](#) and [July 29-30, 2009](#) Members Meetings

Actions: The Members approved the July 9, 2009 Members Teleconference and July 29-30, 2009 Members Executive Session draft action notes as final.

ITEM 7: FY 2010 CBFWA Work Plan Brief

Background: At the July 29-30, 2009 Executive Planning Session, the Members discussed the fish and wildlife coordination budget for FY 2010 and BPA's \$2.4M funding cap for coordination projects. They identified deliverables and core functions. The Members directed staff and MAG to further develop the draft CBFWA FY 2010 work plan with specific deliverables and core functions for their consideration in October.

At the August 17th meeting, the MAG reviewed the first draft CBFWA FY 2010 work plan and deliverables. The MAG approved the format, directed staff to incorporate their comments, tie the tasks with the resources, develop an executive summary for further review, and prepare a brief for the Members on their progress.

Discussion:

Brian Lipscomb referenced the outcome of the meeting established by the Members at Executive Session in Kalispell, Montana regarding the development of the FY 2010 CBFWA work plan. He summarized for Members review the [9/2/09 Draft Policy Areas for CBFWA Member Consideration and Direction](#) outlining the three focus areas (SOTR, coordination forums for policy and technical information exchange, and eyes and ears on regional issues that affect fish and wildlife management or authorities). In addition, the development of specific deliverables and tasks outside the three focus areas.

On August 17, the MAG discussed policy statements pursuant to the three areas. If this is the policy direction that the Members choose, they should focus their efforts on defining policy directives at the first level of the CBFWA work plan for a commitment by October 29, 2009 at the Members Policy Level Meeting. At the second level, articulate the deliverables needed to carry out policy directives, and at the third level what are the tasks required to build those deliverables.

Suggested assignments to MAG:

1. Develop questions in the three focus areas for policy directives and objectives from each Members individual perspective. What is important to your entity and what data reporting is useful to your agency.
2. Work with CBFWA staff and develop output answers from questions for Members for review and follow-up at the face-to-face MAG meeting September 21-22, 2009, in Portland Oregon. The MAG will flush out the next two levels with complete details for consideration of BPA's proposed budget for CBFWA.

Brian Lipscomb proposed an outline on the white board for Members review of a three level work plan describing the policy directives to be provided to CBFWA Chair and Executive Director (ED) to carry out with the MAG. The policy directives would be presented at the October 29, 2009 Members Policy Level Meeting. Over a six-month period, the MAG, Chair, and ED would carry out the deliverables and report back to the Members at their next meeting. The Members would review the process and evaluate the progress of the policy directives.

Suggested three level work plan:

Tier 1: Members: Develop and provide Policy Directives to guide the activity of MAG, Chair, and ED, and define the expectations of each committee.

Tier 2: MAG: Develop list of deliverables necessary to carry out the policy directives.

Tier 3: MAG: What tasks are required to build each deliverable to define time, efforts, and cost to complete the tasks and define the CBFWA budget.

Mark Bagdovitz asked if Brian was proposing that the Members meet twice a year and the MAG meet once a month, if needed. He added that this proposal is similar to the past schedule. Brian stated that the difference was the missing elements of the focus on providing Policy Directives from the Members bi-annual meetings to guide the activity of the MAG and staff. Prior to 2005 policy guidance was provided by consent mail on individual actions and not guided by policy directives. The Policy Directives by default will set the timeline for the next Members Meeting.

The Members reviewed the sample questions in the [9/2/09 Draft Policy Areas for CBFWA Member Consideration and Direction](#) document developed by the CBFWA staff. Brian asked the Members to develop questions for the MAG's review on September 21-22 to begin drafting policy consensus statements for CBFWA. Following the workshop, the Members will be asked to review the answers to the policy questions and develop draft policy directives at the October 7 Members Teleconference.

At the October 29 Members Policy Level Meeting, some of the discussion topics are defining your individual purpose of SOTR in the region, identify the audience and their use of the SOTR, discuss who is responsible for SOTR contents. What is your reporting process and is it compatible with the CBFWA reporting products. What is CBFWA's common

vision and commitment of the SOTR's purpose?

Rob Walton supported the SOTR website detailed version over the short summary version. He stated the 2008 SOTR report is not satisfactory in key respects summarizing the status of salmon.

The Members confirmed with staff that BPA and Council are included in the process of what parts of the SOTR are important before the policy directives are completed.

Nate Pamplin inquired about the spreadsheet containing the current functioning roles of CBFWA to define the list of deliverables to forward to the BPA and Council. Brian stated that the spreadsheet is being used as a tool in this process.

Tom Iverson provided a simple example of the outline for the policy directives, deliverables, and tasks. For example, a Members' policy directive for SOTR would be that the F&W agencies and Tribes commit to a leadership role to present coordinated consistent fish and wildlife data across the Basin. The deliverables would be the SOTR report and website. One of the tasks under the SOTR deliverables would be coordinating BPA and Council's interests in the SOTR report. At the October meeting, defining the policy directives, deliverables, and prioritizing the tasks will decide the resources as directed by Members.

Brian presented on the white board, another element outside the core functions, the identification of additional work or opportunities for CBFWA to coordinate in the region.

Per Members request, Brian provided an update on the potential ramification of the proposed funding level outlined in BPA's June 9, 2009 letter and attachment. After dividing BPA's \$2.4M coordination budget, the approximate CBFWA proposed funding is \$1,681,340 minus the FY09 Members base plus 2.5% equals \$374,000 leaving \$1,307,510 for CBFWA annual work plan budget. This is an approximate shortage of \$104k. In addition to the July \$45k budgets cuts, CBFWA would need to make an additional \$55k reduction in salaries. The Members questioned, if the CBFWA structure and current funding mechanism is appropriate.

Assignment:

The Members directed that the MAG continue the development of the CBFWA 2010-2014 work plan. The Members agreed to to adopt high level policy directives that will guide the work of CBFWA over the next six months. The MAG will then implement a work plan based on deliverables and tasks that are consistent with those policy directives. Following implementation of those policies, a report to the Members will be provided and modifications to the operations will be made if necessary.

The Members are being asked to review the questions in each policy area and provide feedback to Tom Iverson by September 14, 2009. Staff will rephrase the questions based on the Members' responses. On September 15, the updated questions will be provided to the MAG to guide development of collective statements to define policy directives. At the September 21-22, 2009 workshop, the MAG is assigned to assemble responses to the questions, formulate policy directives, and complete tier 2 deliverables and tier 3 tasks for Members consideration at the October 7 teleconference and October 29 Members Policy Level Meeting. The MAG will meet on October 19, if needed.

ITEM 3:

Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC) Recommendations

Neil Ward, CBFWA and Sheri Sears, RFAC Chair presented the RFAC recommendations to the MAG on June 15 and the MAG approved the following for Members consideration.

- [RFAC Presentation: Proposed Methodology for Aquatic Habitat Loss Assessment](#)
- [RFAC proposed Methodology for Calculating Lost Resident Fish Habitat Due to Construction and Inundation](#)
- [Final RFAC proposed changes](#) to the [ISAB's 2008-4](#) Draft Non-Native Species Risk Assessment Template

- Discussion:** Sheri Sears provided the Proposed Methodology for Aquatic Habitat Loss Assessment presentation and Neil Ward provided an overview of the draft letters to the Members.
- Action:** The Members requested more time to review the draft letter on the RFAC proposed methodology for calculating lost resident fish habitat due to construction and inundation for recommendation to the Council and will consider this recommended action at the October 7, 2009 Members Teleconference. No objections.
- Action:** The Members reviewed and approved the suggested edits that the RFAC has recommended to the ISAB's draft risk assessment template for recommendation to the Council. No objections.
- [The final CBFWA letter from Chairman Ward to Chairman Booth, NPCC regarding CBFWA's edits on ISAB's 2008-4 Environmental Risk Assessment Template](#) was sent on September 3, 2009.
- ITEM 4: 2008 Status of Fish and Wildlife Resources in the Columbia River Basin (SOTR) Report**
- Endorsement by CBFWA Members
 - Press Release
 - Final Reports Available on Request
 - Interactive Website Update
- Discussion / Assignment:** Brian stated that the SOTR hard copy is available and the SOTR website and linkages will be completed by end of September. Brian asked the Members how they would like to announce what the SOTR is providing and how they would like to convey the current status of the SOTR to the region and media. Staff developed a draft press release for Members review and comment.
- The Members reviewed the draft SOTR press release and provided comments. The Members assigned staff and MAG to scrub and revise the draft press release for Members consideration at the October 7 or October 29, 2009 meetings. Nate Pamplin, WDFW requested that the revised draft press release be sent to him for further editing.
- ITEM 5: Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP) / Independent Science Advisory Board (ISAB) Tagging Report Recommendations**
- Background:** The ISRP/ISAB released their report [ISRP/ISAB 2009-1, A comprehensive review of Columbia River Basin fish tagging technologies and programs in March 2009](#).
- At the Council meeting in June, Jim Ruff, Council, Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations provided a memo to the Council Members on [Council staff's Management Recommendations from the ISRP/ISAB's Tagging Report #2009-1](#). Follow up on this issue is anticipated at the October Council meeting and the Council is waiting until the end of the monitoring framework to have the conversation.
- At the June MAG meeting, the Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC) and the CSS Oversight Committee were directed to review the ISRP/ISAB 2009-1 report, and the Council staff recommendations, and report their findings to the MAG.
- The [CSS Oversight Committee comments](#) were distributed to the MAG via email on July 10th.
 - The [FPAC comments](#) were distributed to the MAG via email on July 20th.
- At the July meeting, the MAG directed CBFWA staff to initiate a draft letter of response using the CSS Oversight Committee and FPAC comments relative to the ISRP/ISAB report for review by the MAG at the August meeting for consideration by the Members at their September meeting.
- At the August 17th meeting, the MAG provided comments and approved the CBFWA draft comment letter for Members consideration.

Discussion: Brian Lipscomb and Dave Ward, CBFWA staff provided a background summary overview of the ISRP/ISAB Tagging Report Recommendations and draft CBFWA comment letter. The main point in the second paragraph is to delay action until the basinwide RM&E framework program is established. The Members reviewed the draft letter and provided comments. The Members directed staff to remove the third bullet and make stylistic changes in the draft letter. Rob Walton, NOAA stated that he had the hydro division review the draft letter and they were comfortable with the draft letter and he is comfortable with the changes.

Action: The Members approved the CBFWA letter as amended to the Council commenting on the ISRP/ISAB 2009-1 report and Council staff recommendations. No objections.

The letter was amended and the [September 2, 2009 final CBFWA letter commenting on the ISRP/ISAB 2009-1 report and Council staff recommendations was sent to Chairman Booth, Council from Chairman Ward, CBFWA.](#)

ITEM 6: Fish Screening Oversight Committee (FSOC)

- **Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA)**

Background: Dave Ward presented a FRIMA letter drafted by FSOC for consideration by the MAG for forwarding to the Members for their approval in supporting the appropriation of \$25M. Dave Ward stated that \$25M is the original full amount that could potentially be authorized. According to FSOC, the most that has been spent per year is about \$4M, but if enough was authorized, they could easily get \$10M on the ground in any given year, especially with the current language in FRIMA that allows for BPA funds to be used for cost share.

Dave Ward stated that FRIMA is not limited to anadromous salmonids and the letter is purposely written so it can be used for screening of resident fish, lamprey, adult and juvenile salmonids, with the appropriate cost share in the four northwestern states. Lance Hebdon added that the program is broad and as long as it is irrigation diversion and native fish species then it is potentially eligible, with the diversion owner required to pony up funds. Lance stated that initially it was restricted to the Columbia Basin but that may have been broadened.

At the July 27 meeting, the MAG approved the [draft FRIMA letter](#) as written for Members' consideration. The USFWS and NOAA would abstain from the letter and an abstention footnote is included in the letter.

Discussion / Assignment: Dave Ward, CBFWA staff gave an overview of the draft letter supporting reauthorization of FRIMA and requesting full funding (\$25M) in FY 2010.

The NOAA Fisheries and USFWS abstain.

Mark stated there are no 2010 appropriations for FRIMA in the President's budget, House mark, or Senate mark. It would be more effective if the recommendation were redirected to 2011 appropriation request process. The schedule is the administration or Department of Interior is formulating their budget requests for 2011 now. Next, a gray book is assembled and sent to OMB in late summer or fall, and the OMG does the juggling and a green book comes out at the end of November, which becomes the President's budget, revised, and released in February. This is the time the administration begins the appropriations process. Thus far, the federal shares always come from USFWS, but if another federal agency wanted to use their authority, they could participate in the federal cost share match.

The Members agreed to redirect the letter to 2011 appropriations process and provided the following requests that the draft letter be address to Dear Chairman and copy everyone on the House Committee. In addition, they directed staff to send the draft letter back to the MAG for further discussion on the intended audience and message in the draft letter and develop a strategy to move the letter forward for Members consideration.

ITEM 7: FY 2010 CBFWA Work Plan Brief

This item was reviewed after item 2.

ITEM 8: Northwest Power and Conservation Council August Meeting Updates

Updates: Tom Iverson, CBFWA staff provided a short update to the Members on following.

[Update on RM&E and Artificial Production Category Reviews](#)

The RM&E categorical review is proceeding and on a timeline and waiting for monitoring workshops to end. The monitoring projects make up the bulk of the RM&E categorical review. The RM&E categorical projects review process has not been defined for other projects like coordination and mainstem systemwide that do not fall under the monitoring framework. The Artificial Production projects will be under review in the same timeframe, but no details on how those projects will be reviewed.

[Options for Consideration of Hatchery Scientific Review Group \(HSRG\) recommendations](#)

The HSRG recommendations will be incorporated in the Council project funding decisions through the review process and implemented project by project, as they are reviewing the proposals.

[Charter and schedule for Wildlife Crediting Forum](#)

The Council adopted the Wildlife Crediting Forum Charter for one year and appointed Peter Paquet as Chair to assemble the forum participants with little guidance of who and how they will be selected, possibly the forum could include 4-25 people from BPA, Fish and Wildlife Managers, BPA customer groups, and Council. If the Wildlife Crediting Forum is not progressive, the forum may dissolve in a year.

CBFWA staff will keep the Members updated on the Council's progress regarding these issues.

Upcoming Meetings:

Chairman Ward encouraged the Members and MAG to engage in the important issues and participate at the meetings below.

[Members Teleconference:](#) October 7, 2009, 1-4pm (via WebEx)

Members Policy Level Meeting: October 29, 2009 (details forthcoming)

MAG and Regional HEP Team Meeting: Sept. 14, 2009 8:30-9:30am (A quorum is needed for this meeting) Contacts Jann Eckman or Nate Pamplin.

[MAG Meeting:](#) Sept. 21-22, 2009 face-to-face Portland, Oregon (details forthcoming)

MAG Meeting: Tentative October. 19, 2009 (details forthcoming)

[Council Columbia River Estuary Science Policy Exchange:](#) Sept. 10-11, Astoria, OR

[Council Meetings:](#) Sept. 9, Astoria, OR & Oct. 7-9, Ketchum, ID