



November 10, 1999

TO: Members Steering Group

FROM: Brian Allee 

SUBJECT: November 10, 1999 MSG Action Notes

**MEMBERS STEERING GROUP
MEETING & CONFERENCE CALL
November 10, 1999
CBFWA Office, Portland, OR**

ACTION NOTES

Participants: Gary James, CTUIR; Maureen Smith, ISFWS; Kelly Lillengreen, CdAT; Sue Ireland, KTI; Bert Bowler, IDFG; Bob Foster, WDFW; Brian Allee, Tom Giese, Tom Iverson, Neil Ward, Kathie Titzler, Frank Young, and Mary Marvin, CBFWA

On the Phone: Chris Hunter, MDFW&P, Dave Statler, NPT; Michelle Beucler, IDFG

Discussion: Due to the delay at the Seattle airport of two tribal representatives, the MSG chose to postpone agenda items which required a decision until a quorum could be obtained.

ITEM 1: FY99 / FY2000 Decision Processes

Discussion: FY99 Quarterly Review Issues: This item needs a quorum and will be postponed until later in the meeting. This will become Item 8.

Wildlife Caucus Budget Recommendations: This item was postponed.

Response to NWPPC on ISRP Budget Recommendations: Brian, Tom Iverson, and Neil attended the NWPPC quarterly meeting in Twin Falls, Idaho. At the meeting, Bob Lohn, NWPPC, summarized the decisions NWPPC has made regarding allocation of FY2000 funds. This information has been sent to all project sponsors. When comparing NWPPC's final budget numbers to those proposed by CBFWA, there is very little difference between the two.

Update on NWPPC November 2 and 3 Funding Decisions: NWPPC is very excited about the innovative or "Venture Capital" projects and, although there is no criteria yet, it is their intent to fund some of these projects. Brian suggested to the NWPPC that fish and wildlife management priority should be one of the criteria in the project selection process in addition to innovation. A rationale is needed for new starts that may not be innovative.

FY2000 ISRP "Do-Not-Fund" Projects: NWPPC arranged for project sponsor responses prior to their 11/10/99 meeting. NWPPC and BPA are making decisions through the NWPPC process, in conjunction with project sponsors, to be presented at the NWPPC meeting on 11/30/99. These decisions will be recommended at the NWPPC meeting on 12/7 and 12/8/99.

Brian suggested that CBFWA staff help is available to members on projects that are up for further NWPPC review. They need only ask. NWPPC will be available to work with sponsors on these projects.

The ISRP was complimentary to the professional responses in the CBFWA FY2000 AIWP to the ISRP comments.

Brian pointed out that the CBFWA FY2000 project placeholder is up for consideration by NWPPC. Discussion to re-orient the FY2000 budget needs to occur, and guidance is needed from the managers to compile the information and present it to NWPPC on 11/30. We can justify the \$2 million currently in the FY2000 project budget, but we need to re-evaluate the way it is allocated.

ITEM 2. NWPPC Transition Process

Discussion: NWPPC has recommended that the ISRP begin interactions with sponsors. Brian spoke to ISRP representative Rick Williams with Bob Lohn on 11/9/99. The ISRP is willing to work with CBFWA and the managers to determine key elements needed for subbasin plans and watershed assessments and to agree on a template. These elements will be further refined at a workshop on 12/9 and 12/10/99. No agenda has been developed yet for this meeting, but it will be held at the NWPPC.

There are a number of initiatives in Idaho regarding watershed assessments. At the workshop, each agency or tribe currently doing assessments can outline their approach so that a set of common guidelines within a template can be agreed upon.

The ISRP and NWPPC are suggesting completing two provincial reviews in FY2000. Discussions regarding the schedule are centering on starting the first province in June of 2000.

The task outlined for CBFWA is to develop, within three weeks, a matrix that will detail the stage of subbasin completion review, the viability of watershed councils, and the number of projects and total dollars per subbasin.

John Ogan of NWPPC will be summarizing NWPPC's priorities for provincial review and initial funding allocation. The ISRP will summarize their provincial review process. All information will be shared and discussed at the NWPPC meeting on 12/7 and 8/99.

NWPPC staff and ISRP are strongly suggesting that the first province to be reviewed be Columbia Gorge. CBFWA should recommend when the subbasin plans will be completed and what is the next feasible schedule for review. It is assumed that subbasin plans produced in the third year, but will be superior to those produced in the first year. It is recommended that subbasin planning begin now.

The fish and wildlife managers have most of this information to complete subbasin plans already. They only need to compile it into the agreed upon template. The current NWPPC and ISRP thinking is that it is important to define the basic objective as the goal you wish to achieve. The tasks are the actions you take to achieve that goal, and then it must be determined what M&E procedures will be used to evaluate the success of the tasks relative to the objective. It will be then be possible to identify gaps in the overall program and identify projects that could fill those gaps. New proposals will be judged against established objectives for each subbasin.

NWPPC is committed to open and fair competition for projects, to the creation of dynamic subbasin plans, to working with watershed councils, and to soliciting ongoing and new projects to fill identified gaps.

On 11/30, at NWPPC's fish and wildlife committee meeting, CBFWA should offer guidance to the ISRP and NWPPC regarding innovative projects. A work group should be set up to develop this guidance and address what does and what does not constitute an innovative project.

ACTION: Sue Ireland will write out some of her concerns on innovative projects and will contact Michele Beucler later today for her input. The goal of this action is to inform NWPPC of these concerns and request a possible delay in NWPPC's decision, pending a definitive discussion of criteria. The appropriateness of projects identified as "new" or "innovative," as well as "special needs" must be ensured.

NWPPC is beginning to discuss emergency project needs within each fiscal year.

ITEM 3: Subbasin Planning Process

Discussion: Quite a bit of discussion had already occurred on elements in this item.

Approve ad hoc Intercaucus Subbasin Planning Group: It was felt that there was a need to formalize this approval.

ACTION: The MSG approved the ad hoc intercaucus subbasin planning group.

ITEM 4: CBFWA Charter Status Update

Discussion: At the last Members meeting, the decision on how to handle the upcoming sunset of the Charter was postponed until the next Members meeting. This issue should be discussed by each caucus before the Members meeting.

ACTION: Place this item on each of the next caucus agendas. Each chair should poll caucus members regarding delay of the sunset decision, reach a recommendation, and provide the results to Brian for the next Members meeting.

ACTION: CBFWA staff will develop a Charter flow chart which shows the previous elements of the Charter, the present form, and send this out to the MSG with a copy of the present Charter.

ITEM 5: Fish and Wildlife Program Amendments Update

Discussion: The Multi-Species Framework will not be completed until January 2000. There will be a 90-day comment period. Per the Ninth Circuit Court, NWPPC must defer to the Fish and Wildlife Managers in recommendations for NWPPC program amendments. CBFWA has the opportunity for providing leadership on program amendments. NWPPC's amendment guidelines are very general. The managers should initiate discussions on this issue soon with the suggestion it should be put on the caucus agendas. NWPPC has a strategic planning retreat planned for 11/15 and will discuss this issue at that time.

ACTION: Tom Giese will help facilitate the development of the recommendations with the caucuses.

ITEM 6: Dispute Resolution Process

Discussion: There is currently no formal dispute resolution process outlined in the CBFWA Charter. Do we need one?

ITEM 7: MOA Update

Discussion: This issue will be placed on the Members meeting agenda for discussion.

ITEM 8: Quarterly Review Issues

ACTION: The MSG approved the draft letter to Todd Maddock regarding budget modifications, after the addition of the Project #9506700 to item 3.

ACTION: The MSG recommended not funding the hydro-site database and directed CBFWA staff to send a letter to BPA regarding not recommending funding.

ITEM 9: Review Attached Members Meeting Tentative Draft Agenda

Discussion: If changes or additions need to be made to the draft agenda, please contact Brian Allee or Jann Eckman at CBFWA, (503) 229-0191. The meeting date was changed to avoid conflict with NWPPC's 11/30 meeting. The location was also changed from Skamania Lodge to the Airport Embassy Suites. **CBFWA members are strongly urged to attend!**