



August 23, 2002

TO: Members Management Group (MMG)

FROM: Rod Sando, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Draft 8/8/02 MMG Action Notes

**MEMBERS MANAGEMENT GROUP
MEETING/CONFERENCE CALL**

Thursday, August 8, 2002

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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CBFWA Office, Portland, OR

Action Notes

Attendees: Fred Olney, USFWS; John Palensky, NMFS; Dave Ward, ODFW; Pete Hassemer, IDFG; Bill Tweit, WDFW; Terry Courtney Jr., CTWSRO; Cat Black, CRITFC; Lynn Hatcher, YN; Chris Jordan, NMFS; Gary James, CTUIR; Doug Marker, NWPPC; Rod Sando, Jann Eckman, Tom Iverson, Frank Young, Neil Ward, Kathie Titzler, CBFWA/F

By Phone: Vinnie Pero, SPT; Patty O'Toole, CTWSRO; Matt Berger, CTCR; Doug Taki, SBT; Jim Peterson, USGS; Pat Conley, USGS; Calvin Peters, IDFG; Joe Peone, CTCR; Dave Johnson, NPT, Chris Fisher, CTCR; Mattie Allen, SPT; Ray Entz, KT; Mary Verner, STI; Ron Peters, CdAT

Time Allocation:	Objective 1. FY 2003 Renewal Process	65%
	Objective 2. Rolling Province Review and Subbasin Summaries	10%
	Objective 3. FY 2002 Adjustments	25%

ITEM 1: 9:00-10:15am **Budget Review** – Tom Giese, CBFWA

- Uncommitted placeholder
- Capital budget plan
 - Accelerated funding for capital projects
- SOY budget process

Discussion: Tom Giese reported that his estimate of the uncommitted placeholder remains at \$16.6M. Giese will meet with BPA and NWPPC staff on 8/9/02 to continue the budget reconciliation effort. The MMG discussed alternative uses for the placeholder funds. Giese outlines the upcoming effort to develop a draft budget for FY 2003.

ACTION: Staff will send out a revised estimate of the Uncommitted placeholder after meeting with BPA.

The MMG recommended that a strategy be developed to expend the unallocated placeholder during FY 2002. Some of the uncommitted funds should be used to fund within-year requests, some should be used to enhance the budgets of the remaining five provinces and the Mainstem/Systemwide projects, and some should be reserved for the highest priority proposals that remain unfunded from the rolling review in the other provinces.

ITEM 2: Within-Year Budget Modification Guidelines – Neil Ward, CBFWA

10:15-10:45am

- Review and approve for Members consent mail approval

Discussion: MMG reviewed the guidelines which reflected the recommended changes that were proposed during the August 6, 2002, MMG Meeting. Minor grammatical changes were recommended and accepted.

ACTION: Guidelines were approved to forward to the CBFWA Members for consent mail approval.

ITEM 3: Mainstem and Systemwide Province Project Review Process – Tom

10:45-11:15am

Iverson, CBFWA

- Review schedule and deliverables

- Action Agency comments to project sponsors

Discussion: The Mainstem and Systemwide Province project review process is underway. The Action Agency RME Work Group delivered comments on monitoring and evaluation projects on July 19, 2002. The preliminary ISRP comments were released on August 2, 2002. The project sponsors are currently addressing the concerns raised by those two review groups and will produce responses to the ISRP on August 23, 2002.

The CBFWA project review process has been rescheduled to the week of September 23. For the CBFWA review, we will apply the same criteria and rankings that have been used during the previous rolling provincial reviews. One suggestion by staff is to more closely adhere to the definitions within those criteria and not consolidate the Urgent and High Priority categories during the review. This province will be slightly different than the previous geographic provinces, since there will not be local groups developing “balanced” budget recommendations for the NWPPC. It is not clear what method the NWPPC will use for balancing their budget for this province. For this reason it is imperative that CBFWA perform a critical and transparent review of projects.

Finally, there is substantial confusion among project sponsors that have conflicting ISRP and Action Agency comments on their proposals. They are not clear on which comments take precedence. Hopefully, during the CBFWA review, we can provide clarity and guidance to the project sponsors on what the CBWFA priorities are for each project based on the needs of the fish and wildlife.

ACTION: The guidance and schedule for the CBFWA review will be sent out on August 9, 2002.

ITEM 4: Within-Year Budget Modification – Tom Iverson, CBFWA

- 11:15-12:00pm Project #199601100, *Walla Walla Juvenile and Adult Passage Improvements*. CTUIR request approval to: 1) expand the approved scope of the FY2002 project to include continued construction of large passage projects that are ready for implementation, 2) increase project budget levels by \$1,177,585 and \$1,137,022 in FY 2003 and 2004 respectively. (see attachments)
- ACTION: The MMG approved modification of the scope of work for Project Number 199601100, *Walla Walla Juvenile and Adult Passage Improvements*, to include the Milton Ditch consolidation project. This action does not guarantee the funding for additional large construction projects identified in the original proposal. The recommendation will be forwarded to the full CBFWA membership for approval.
- Project 26031, *Improve Upstream Fish Passage in Birch Creek Watershed*. ODFW is requesting \$300,000 each year for 2003 and 2004 for this project. This project was an Action Plan project that the ISRP deferred to the Columbia Plateau Province for review. The CBFWA rating was High Priority and the final ISRP rating was Fundable. This project was included in the final recommendation for funding by the NWPPC in the Action Plan category. This project was also submitted in the Columbia Plateau Province as Project Number 25081 where it again received a High Priority ranking from CBFWA and a Fundable rating from the ISRP. The AFC conditionally approved the request for \$300,000 for 2003 and \$300,000 for 2004. Funding for this project should be provided from the Action Plan category of funding. If insufficient funding exists in the Action Plan category, the balance of funding should be provided from the unallocated placeholder. This approval is contingent on the identification of available funds in the unallocated placeholder that incorporate and accommodate projected capital investments for all ongoing projects.
- ACTION: The MMG approved funding for Project 26031, *Improve Upstream Fish Passage in Birch Creek Watershed*, for \$300,000 for FY 2003 and \$300,000 for FY 2004 only. Funding for this project should be provided from the Action Plan category of funding. If insufficient funding exists in the Action Plan category, the balance of funding should be provided from the unallocated placeholder. The M&E portion of the project should be reduced according to the project sponsors recommendations. The recommendation will be forwarded to the full CBFWA membership for approval.
- Project 27025, *Acquire South Fork Asotin Creek Property - Schlee Ranch Acquisition*. WDFW is requesting 3.4 million for Project 27025. This project can be separated into two components: Mainstem Riparian/Buffers for 2.3 million and Upland Habitats for \$1.1 million. This project was proposed in the Blue Mountain Province and received a CBFWA High Priority ranking and an ISRP fundable rating. This project was not included in the final projects recommended for funding by the NWPPC in that province. BPA has stated that they do not support funding the Upland Habitats portion of the project since there are no remaining wildlife credits available for this project. BPA is interested in the Mainstem Riparian/Buffers portion of the project for ESA protection credits and that is why the AFC was asked to review this project. There apparently are some outstanding funding issues in the Blue Mountain Province in regards to capital projects and outyear needs (i.e., Northeast Oregon Hatchery). Also, several of the habitat projects in the Blue Mountain have been questioned by BPA. The request raised some fundamental policy

issues that need to be addressed by the MMG. The AFC decided to forward this request to the MMG without a recommendation for consideration at their 7/11/02 meeting. The MMG needs to address the budget implications of this request in relation to the remaining provincial review budgets and the fact that the project was not supported by the NWPPC in their Blue Mountain Province funding decision.

ACTION: The MMG approved funding the Mainstem Riparian Buffers portion of Project 27025, *Acquire South Fork Asotin Creek Property - Schlee Ranch Acquisition*, request for a total of \$2.3 million. This recommendation will be forwarded to the full CBFWA membership for approval.

Project 200001300, *Evaluate An Experimental Re-introduction of Sockeye Salmon into Skaha Lake*. CCT is requesting \$49,700 for this project. This is a risk assessment project in the Okanagon Subbasin to evaluate the impact of reintroducing sockeye salmon in three focus areas: 1) impact of exotic species, 2) disease risk, and 3) production potential of sockeye in the lakes and tributaries. For the last year of the field study, the oversight group for the project determined that sampling should be expanded from a seasonal schedule to a monthly schedule in order to obtain temporal trends in key limnological and biological parameters. This information will be required prior to the implementation of reintroduction of sockeye to Skaha Lake. The AFC conditionally approved the request for \$49,700 to expand sampling to a monthly schedule. This approval is contingent on the identification of available funds in the unallocated placeholder that incorporate and accommodate projected capital investments for all ongoing projects.

ACTION: The MMG approved a one-time request for Project 200001300, *Evaluate An Experimental Re-introduction of Sockeye Salmon into Skaha Lake* for a total of \$49,700. This recommendation will be forwarded to the full CBFWA membership for approval.

Project 199008000, PTAGIS. PSMFC is requesting \$812,475 in additional funding for this project. The growth in number of interrogation sites, number of coils, and types of interrogation data is stressing the core infrastructure of the project. There are four specific areas that need addressing within PTAGIS in order to maintain their infrastructure: 1) upgrade systems hardware and software, 2) hire software developers to support separation by codes, 3) hire a field technician to provide support for O&M of interrogation sites, and 4) hire consulting services to implement internet based services to answer data requests. With these upgrades in their 2002 contract PTAGIS can continue to provide the level of support that is expected from the Region for PIT tag services and can prepare for future additions to the PTAGIS resulting from expansion of smolt interrogation sites and the addition of adult interrogations sites coming online in the near future. The AFC conditionally approved the request for \$812,475 to upgrade their infrastructure and continue their PIT tag information support for the Region. This approval is contingent on the identification of available funds in the unallocated placeholder that incorporate and accommodate projected capital investments for all ongoing projects. The AFC also requested that FPAC provide a technical review of the request prior to the 7/11/02 MMG meeting.

ACTION: The MMG approved funding for Project 199008000, *PTAGIS*, for \$812,475 as discussed above. The allocation of effort between the Direct portion of the

program and the Reimbursable portion of the program should be determined during the Mainstem and Systemwide project review process. This recommendation will be forwarded to the full CBFWA membership for approval.

Project 198812026, *Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project Training and Education Proposal*. The Yakama Nation is requesting \$188,407 for 2003, \$150,561, and \$102,346 for 2005. This project supports education and training for Yakama nation members in fish culture. This request is also for a modification to the contract date. The request would support 4 fish culturists and their tuition, fees, books, supplies, and housing needs. This request was reviewed by the AFC on 6/0/02. The AFC asked Tom Iverson to clarify the request and forward the request directly to the MMG for discussion. (see attached clarification from Mel Sampson, YKFP Project Manager)

ACTION: The MMG approved funding \$188,000 for Project 198812026, *Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project Training and Education Proposal* in order for the existing students to complete their current 2002-2003 school year. There was an initial objection to this motion that was subsequently rescinded later in the meeting. This recommendation will be forwarded to the full CBFWA membership for approval.

Joe Peone called in and rescinded the YKFP Student Program objection made earlier by Matt Berger.

ITEM 5: **BPA Funding Decision** – David Johnson, WDFW

1:00-1:20pm

Project 200100700, *Evaluate Status of Coastal Cutthroat Trout in the Columbia River Basin above Bonneville Dam*. The WDFW and USGS indicated that the BPA has recommended that Project 200100700 be terminated on the basis that “given the decision of the Service (i.e., United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)) not to list this species and the need to focus resources on highest quality needs for ESA implementation, Bonneville questions whether the study is appropriate as a priority for the power system at this time,” and subsequently suggested to the NWPPC that “the need to initiated field related objectives under this project might be reviewed during subbasin planning” and that the NWPPC “review its recommendation in light of the Fish and Wildlife Service decision.” The WDFW and USGS requested that the CBFWA take a proactive role in pursuing the continuation of funding for this project.

ACTION: The CBFWA will draft a letter to the NWPPC (i.e. Larry Cassidy) requesting the NWPPC’s continued support of this project.

ITEM 6: **Responding to BPA Issues** – Rod Sando, CBFWA

1:20-2:05pm

- Slice proposal, comments due by 9/12/02
- Avoiding a Rate Increase, comments due 9/30/02
- Forum with Steve Wright, BPA Administrator – Scheduled for August 27, 2002, from 1:30-3:00 p.m.

ACTION: No action was taken.

ITEM 7: **CBFWA Proposals** – Rod Sando, CBFWA

2:05-2:35pm

- Discuss on-going task in current CBFWA SOW and expected product.

- FY 2003-2005 Proposal
- Report on another CBFWA proposal to NOAA

ITEM 8:
2:35-2:50pm

Issue Stacking – Tom Giese, CBFWA

- Review upcoming critical issues

ACTION:

Discussion item, no action taken

ITEM 9:
2:50-3:00pm

Calendar – Tom Giese, CBFWA

- Discuss changing the meeting date for the monthly MMG meeting
- Calendar update
- Next Members Meeting – date and location

ACTION:

The MMG will meet two Tuesdays prior to the Northwest Power Planning Council meetings. The next MMG meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2002 at the Airport Sheraton Hotel, Portland Oregon. The next two MMG meetings will be on October 1 and October 29, 2002.

The next Members meeting is scheduled October 2 & 3, 2002, location TBA.