



DATE: January 22, 2003
 TO: Members Management Group (MMG)
 FROM: Rod Sando
 SUBJECT: DRAFT Action Notes

**Members Management Group Meeting
 January 7, 2003
 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Draft Action Notes

If there are no objections to these action notes within five days from the date of this document, they will become final and will be posted to the CBFWA website.

Attendees: John Palensky (NMFS), Fred Olney, Mark Bagdovitz, and Maureen Smith (USFWS), Tom Giese, Mary Marvin, Neil Ward, Tom Iverson, Kathie Titzler, Jann Eckman, and Rod Sando (CBFWA), Dave Ward (ODFW), Paul Lumley, Catriona Black, and Rob Lothrop (CRITFC), Pete Hassemmer (IDFG), Terry Luther (CTWSRO), Carl Scheeler and Gary James (CTUIR), Ron Peters (C d' A), Ed Sheets (consultant to CRITFC), Dave Statler (NPT), Ray Entz (Kalispel), Guy Dodson (SPT), Amos FirstRaised (BPT), Keith Wolf (CCT), Barbara Stinson (Meridian Institute)

By Phone: Doug Taki (SBT), Lynn DuCharme (CKST), Greg Sieglitz in the a.m. on 1/7(ODFW), Mary Verner (UCUT), Lynn Hatcher (YN), Chad Colter (SBT)

Time	Objective 1. FY 2003 Renewal Process	88%
Allocation:	Objective 2. Rolling Province Review and Subbasin Summaries	8%
	Objective 3. FY 2002 Adjustments	4%

ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda

8:35 – 8:45 Rod requested that some discussion be added to Item 12 regarding the meeting with NWPPC on 1/15/03.

ITEM 2: End of Year Billings

8:45 – 8:50

Kathie reminded everyone that billings are due as soon as possible. Billings should cover the period of February 1, 2002 through January 31, 2003 and relate to three objectives on the time sheet – subbasin planning is handled by NWPPC. There is approximately 70% of the budget left unspent (which translates to \$800,080). BPA may cut CBFWA's budget based on the billing rate, so it's important to bill for all the time and travel possible. Time spent preparing for meetings should also be billed. The CBFWA contract ends on January 31, 2003; only bills received in the CBFWA office no later than February 28, 2003 will be paid.

ITEMS 3 Strategy to Respond to Bonneville**& 4:**

8:50–11:00

There is no clear understanding from the NWPPC regarding how they plan to proceed. Rod proposed two ideas:

- 1) discuss a process to advise NWPPC
- 2) find out the important principles for setting priorities for those projects that will be "adjusted"
 - maintain program integrity
 - determine what can be deferred, reduced, or eliminated
 - discover the current status of the capital amount

Doug Marker is looking for answers from BPA before NWPPC proceeds. The terms of accounting need to be defined and it must be determined how much capital will be used. Still need clarification on what happened with the carryover.

Managers reported that there are problems with directions from BPA's COTRs on projects. Information is not always accurate or consistent. The survey CBFWA initiated was meant to determine the answers to these questions, but each COTR functions differently within BPA. Projects approved by the ISRP, CBFWA, and NWPPC are being arbitrarily cut by BPA's COTRs. Project prioritization has already occurred and there is no need for BPA to re-prioritize what they have previously agreed to based on recommendations from ISRP, CBFWA, and NWPPC. It is important to push for safe contracts.

CBFWA should show a willingness to work with BPA and NWPPC to alleviate the problems, but caution should be taken on accepting the \$139M budget level offered by BPA. That amount does not cover the costs of implementing the programs BPA has already approved. It was felt that CBFWA should submit to BPA CBFWA's recommendations. BPA has stated that \$36M is available for fish and wildlife; however, monies were reduced without including all parties. Also, dollar amounts have been severely constrained regarding what the monies can be used for. The \$36M comes from a different source of money than the \$139 M and is earmarked for capital expenditures.

Carryover needs to be re-addressed. It will be necessary to go back over history and refresh BPA's and NWPPC's memories regarding the \$250M

that was carried forward by BPA, and which lost its identity.

While no one wanted to cut their budgets any more than they already have, it was determined to be in the best interests of the program to indicate to BPA that CBFWA understands the crisis BPA is experiencing, rather than flatly stating no cuts will be made, address the cuts already endured by fish and wildlife and offer alternatives.

Tom Giese wanted to assure the Members and Managers that, despite BPA's pretense that CBFWA approves of BPA's plans to cut budgets simply by their attendance at BPA meetings, this is not the case. CBFWA has attended BPA meetings in order to learn what BPA's courses of action are in regard to the budget, and is not in agreement with BPA's plans. It remains important for CBFWA staff to participate whenever possible and bring this information back to the Members.

It was felt that CBFWA should work with NWPPC to present a united approach to BPA in order to assure that the program continues with the support of NWPPC. Information needs to be disseminated to CBFWA.

Actions:

1. Rod will make the Moss Adams Audit Report available on the CBFWA web site.
2. Rod will discuss with Doug Marker that CBFWA wants to be a participant with NWPPC and be considered part of the decision-making process in matters concerning BPA and the fish and wildlife program.
3. CBFWA staff will draft a letter by Wednesday, 1/8/03, addressing the following points:
 - Cuts already made (alignment of projects, etc.)
 - Before additional cuts are made, more information is needed, i.e.,
 - how will the capital be used
 - what is the magnitude of the cuts proposed
 - Suggest alternatives such as managing using business techniques
 - To the extent there is an amount identified, principles are being developed for fish and wildlife management in general
 - Create a mini-white paper

Responses to the draft letter will be due to CBFWA by close of business on Wednesday, January 15, and will be distributed to NWPPC and BPA on January 16.

Tom Giese will put together and make available data on individual projects, estimated budgets (which NWPPC has approved for 2003), and arguments that show why these are eligible to be capitalized.

ITEM 5:

11:00 – 11:04

Mainstem and Systemwide Recommendations for Project 35064 (previously 30007 - *Acoustic Tracking Array for Studying Ocean Survival and Movements of Columbia River Salmon*) **and Project 35065** (previously 30010 - *Canada-USA Shelf Salmon Survival Study*).

The AFC determined that these projects rated a "Recommended Action" to send them to NWPPC as an addendum to the Mainstem/Systemwide Work Plan.

Action The MMG approved the letter addressing Projects 35064 and 35065 for a 5-day Consent Mail.

ITEM 6: **Update on Project #19900800, Columbia Basin PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS)**
11:04 – 11:12

Although the request from the project sponsor was unusual, the AFC drafted a letter supporting PTAGIS' statement that there is no need for them to store the metadata on hatchery fish because these data are available through links already found in the current PTAGIS database. Other storage methods are more cost effective and are already being used.

Action The MMG determined that this letter does not need to be sent as a Consent Mail. It can be mailed by CBFWA on Wednesday, January 8.

ITEM 7: **Informational Briefing Regarding Long-Term Aspects of BPA's Management Problems** – Ed Sheets and Rob Lothrop
11:12 – 11:45

There are currently problems for BPA with implementation and funding, problems associated with the process. It is important to explore funding to get a clear idea of what is needed. The purpose of the work that Ed has been doing is to develop a work plan to recover listed stocks and recover other fish and wildlife.

Actions

- A more complete draft of the white paper will be put on the Members Meeting agenda for January to stimulate discussion.
- Interested persons form a work group. (Contacts are Mary Verner – contact information through mid-February: 866-256-5183 toll free, maryv@alltell.com, and Ed Sheets, 503-222-1700, ed@edsheets.com)

ITEM 8: **Mainstem Amendment Activities**

11:45 – 11:54

Neil developed some more specific questions designed to clarify exactly where problems are occurring. This information has been delivered to BPA, but there has been no response to date.

Action There will be a “dry run” of the presentation on January 9 to fine-tune it before the January 15 meeting.

ITEM 9: **BPA Contracting Survey Status**

The first survey is on hold and CBFWA will send out another, updated survey.

ITEM 10: **Update on RM&E Activities**

There has been no response from BPA since December 10. The issue is on hold.

ITEM 11: **Within-Year Budget Modification Process**

This process has been put on hold, pending results from NWPPC and BPA meetings.

ITEM 12: Winter Members Meeting – January 21 & 22, 2003

11:56 – 12:00

Rod told the group that there are three panels scheduled for the second day of the meeting, and that Federal Action Agencies will be available to discuss various issues. In the evening, there will be an awards banquet and Winona LaDuke is the guest speaker.

ITEM 13: Next Meeting

12:00 – 12:04

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5 at the CBFWA office in Portland. Also on February 5th there will be an informal workshop at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Portland with the Public Power Council and other power industry personnel. The MMG will attend in the afternoon and panels from the MMG will share information about fish and wildlife. Utility representatives will share information about power generation, discuss common ground, and future opportunities to work together. Rod encourages anyone who is interested in learning more about the Public Power Council and its role in the basin and in fish and wildlife to attend the meeting.