



DATE: January 13, 2004
TO: Members Management Group (MMG)
FROM: Rod Sando, CBFWA
SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for the 12/23/03 MMG Meeting

If there are no objections within five days, these action notes will be considered final.

Members Management Group Meeting
December 23, 2003
@
CBFWA Office, Portland, OR

Draft Action Notes

Attendees: Amos First Raised, BPT; Michele DeHart & Henry Franzoni, FPC; John Palensky, NMFS; Dave Statler, NPT; Fred Olney, USFWS; Jann Eckman, Tom Giese, Tom Iverson, Tana Klum, Kathie Titzler, Neil Ward, Frank Young, Amy Langston, Trina Gerlack, & Mary Washkoske, CBFWA

By Phone: Mary Verner, UCUT; Paul Ward, YN; Brian Marotz, MDFWP; Pete Hassemer, IDFG; Doug Taki, SBT; Joann Hunt, NWPC; Dave Ward, ODFW; Ron Peters, CDA; David Johnson, WDFW & Sue Ireland, Kootenai

Time	Objective 1. Project Recommendations	18%
Allocation:	Objective 2. Regional Issues	82%
	Objective 3. Annual Report	0%
	Other Business	0%

ITEM 1: WC Committee Charter

Discussion: Frank Young reported that the Wildlife Committee (WC) had accepted the latest version of the WC Charter containing revisions intended to respond to ODFW recommendations. He requested that the MMG approve the revised Charter.

ACTION: Dave Statler moved that the MMG accept the current version of the WC Charter dated December 8, 2003. Fred Olney seconded the motion. The Charter will be sent to the Members for final approval.

ITEM 2: F & W Funding Agreement (MOA II)

Discussion: Tana Klum gave a brief update on the progress of MOA II. She said that BPA was concerned that their fish and wildlife obligations be clearly defined. Dave Statler said the NPT had a department meeting with BPA and BPA indicated that they were committed to developing an MOA. A committee is being formed to revise the old MOA. This group will meet the first week in January to draft the MOA, which will be presented to the Tribes at the 13 Tribes meeting in January 2004. Keith Kutchins, Amos First-Raised, Rob Lothrop, Mary Verner, Tom Giese, and Tana have agreed to be on the committee. The committee plans on discussing a draft MOA with the Members at their January meeting. The committee plans on presenting a draft MOA to the Members at their January meeting. The MMG agreed that it was important to keep the momentum going on the MOA.

Tom Giese is working on a draft letter to BPA and NPCC on the benefits of having an MOA. John Palensky suggested staff contact the NPCC staff who are interested in establishing a MOA to get their input.

ITEM 3: CBFWA Comments on the 2003 BiOp Check-In Report

Discussion: John Palensky said he would abstain from discussing this issue.

Tom Iverson discussed his analysis of BPA's annual funding for projects addressing RPAs in the Fish & Wildlife Program since the adoption of the 2000 BiOp. He said it appeared that BPA had over-estimated its financial contribution to the Action Agencies efforts toward habitat restoration and offsite actions. His analysis showed that BPA had actually funded NOAA RPA actions totaling \$57.7 million in expense and 1.4 million in capital in 2002 and \$59.6 million in expense and \$3.4 million in capital in 2003. He noted that the 2003 Check-In Report figures were based on BPA's obligations not the actual amount funded. His analysis also showed that of the \$59.6 million expense projects funded in FY 2003, \$4.7 million were new projects initiated since the adoption of the BiOp (starting date in FY 2002 and FY 2003). In the capital category only \$800,000 of new projects were initiated in FY 2002 with no new BiOp projects initiated in FY 2003. Tom noted that he had shared his analysis with BPA staff prior to distribution to MMG. The MMG discussed whether to formally send Tom's memo and spreadsheets to BPA and the Action Agencies or to fine tune it a little more.

ACTION: Mary Verner, MMG Vice Chair, recommended that MMG members review the draft memo and spreadsheets and provide comments to Tom Iverson by January 5, 2004. Although a letter now would be only for the record, Mary said individual members could use this information for their own purposes as well. Tom will incorporate any comments and send the letter out to the MMG for consent mail approval on January 5, 2004.

ITEM 4: Fish and Wildlife Program Implementation

Tom Iverson presented an update on the FY 2004 BPA Budget for the Fish & Wildlife Program. The current NPCC SOY Budget exceeds BPA's limit by \$1

million. He said there were approximately \$1.6 million in “Rescheduling” requests, \$4.1 million in “Within-Year” modification requests and \$6.2 million of “Other” requests. He said the “Other” requests were budget adjustment requests that were based on errors in the NPCC budget exercise or based on existing contracts at BPA that are not represented in the Council’s SOY Budget.

Michele Dehart told the MMG that the Fish Passage Center Smolt Monitoring Program funding was reduced through one of these “errors”. She said that the Program produced information that was critical to the regions fish & wildlife managers and would compromise key projects. She had pursued the funding error with both the NPCC and BPA but neither one had taken any action to fix the problem. She asked the MMG to take an active role in addressing these issues with the BPA and NPCC.

The MMG discussed the problem of there not being a process for fixing these errors and the reduction to \$139 million for the Fish & Wildlife Program. They agreed that BPA and NPCC were not taking responsibility for these critical issues. They agreed there should be a meeting with NPCC.

Dave Statler said the message to the NPCC from CBFWA should contain the following points:

- The current budget is burdened by previous obligations (work has been moved forward without moving funding forward).
- This limits \$/effects of current year program implementation.
- Program non-implementation

The MMG discussed the prioritization process currently available through the Program Status Review meetings, but expressed concern that CBFWA cannot perform a priority assessment of requests when no complete list of project requests exists and no firm identification of available funds has been made available.

ACTION: The MMG instructed Jann Eckman to set up a meeting between Judi Danielson, Rod Sando and Tom Iverson the week of January 5, 2004 to discuss CBFWA’s concerns regarding the 2004 Budget.

ITEM 5: Subbasin Plans

Discussion: Tom Giese has been working with NMFS to host a workshop on how subbasin plans will be used in recovery planning and in a basinwide Fish and Wildlife Program. The original idea for having an “Integrating Subbasin Plans Workshop” was no longer being considered at this time. Instead a Technical Group is being formed to discuss how the subbasin plans are going to be used. The Technical Group members are Phil Roger, Peter Paquet, Lynn Hatcher, Patty Dornbusch, Tom Giese, among others. Fred Olney suggested adding Mark Bagdovitz and Tom agreed.

On another topic, Tom Giese discussed the need to develop cost estimates for

future fish and wildlife mitigation and recovery for the FY 2007-2011 BPA rate case. The MMG discussed developing a unified Fish & Wildlife Plan this spring based on the draft subbasin plans, hatchery genetic management plans, and other sources as a basis for these cost estimates. Tom will keep the MMG informed of progress on this effort.

ITEM 6: Data Management Update

Frank Young discussed how the need for standardized data collection protocols and managing metadata and data accessibility had led to the formation of the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP). PNAMP is being restructured as a regional forum in response to the request of the four governors devise a means for the development of common protocols and standards for regional data management by December 31, 2003. Frank said that PNAMP would be delivering a draft work plan and budget by the end of the month and that the funding should be in place by May 1, 2004. USGS has volunteered to provide an interim coordinator for the period of January 1-May1, 2004. CBFWA has been asked to provide office space and administrative support including the development of agendas, meeting notes and meeting arrangements for the interim coordinator. Frank said he would be responsible for the agendas and action notes.

Henry Franzoni, FPC, expressed his concerns that the new protocols established by PNAMP take into account the compatibility with historical data that already exists. Henry was also concern over the potential for duplication of effort relative to data storage. Frank said that coordination mechanisms were in place through CSMEP to minimize the risk of duplication.

ACTION: The MMG recommended that CBFWA volunteer to provide office space and administrative support for the PNAMP interim coordinator.

ITEM 7: Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP)

This discussion was incorporated into Item 6.

ITEM 8: Summer Spill Committees

Discussion: John Palensky reported on the summer spill issue. The Executive Committee met in December and is waiting for additional information before finalizing a decision. The Spill Committee is finalizing the 4 options and they should be completed in January. Most of the studies will be prohibitively expensive and of very long duration (>50 years). The focus of the meetings is moving towards offsets-actions that can be taken to benefit the survival of stocks that will be adversely affected by the reduction in summer spill. Potential offsets currently include: increase the pike minnow reduction program, spot control of small mouth bass, managing cormorant populations by removing unused piling from the lower river, flow augmentation, O&M for emergency response to fish kills at the dams, and harvest control. The next Executive Committee meeting is in January.

ITEM 9: January 14-15, 2004 Winter Members Meeting

Discussion: Jann Eckman asked the Members and MMG to review the draft agenda and provide comments or edits to the subject matter and contribute historical information for BPA's obligations to fish and wildlife. John Palensky suggested that the BPA point of view agenda item be more specific.

Tana Klum reported on two GAO reports: 1) the BPA financial conditions and crisis report by Jill Berman, GAO that will be available for review in spring 2004 and 2) The Tribal report by Rebecca Sandulli relating to BPA's trust and treaty responsibilities to the Tribes concerning fish and wildlife. The Tribal report focuses only on the Tribes' needs not the CBFWA Members.

ITEM 10: CBFWA Technical Conference

Discussion: Pete Hassemer gave an overview of the draft agenda for the CBFWA Technical Conference in or near Portland for February 10-12, 2004 to discuss the status and trends of salmon stocks in the Columbia River. This conference was triggered by the recent presentation on this topic by NPCC staff at a recent meeting and by the power industry sponsored Salmon at a Crossroads conference. Because of the strict timeline Tom Iverson and Pete suggested that the most efficient method for organizing and staffing the conference would be to hire one or two consultants during the month of January that could assist in collecting, organizing and summarizing the data for the presentations and identify the appropriate folks for the presentations. The CBFWA staff will schedule the meeting logistics and investigate the cost of the hire and remand the work back to the AFC. Kathie Titzler confirmed that funding is possible through January 31, 2003 but past that date a review of the budget is necessary.

ACTION: The MMG has no concerns and agreed that the technical conference should occur to support the previous Salmon at the Crossroads conference and provide factual current information on the specific runs returning to the Columbia River. The MMG approved and assigned the CBFWA staff to move ahead on the planning and scheduling for the February CBFWA Technical Conference.

ITEM 11: Funding Request

Dave Statler, NPT is out of travel funds and requested from the other Members \$7,500 for funding to continue to travel and participate in meetings.

ACTION: Brian Marotz granted the request and approved the transfer of funds from the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' budget to the Nez Perce Tribe's budget.

ITEM 12: Reallocation of MDFWP's CSMEP Budget

MDFWP has returned their CSMEP contract unsigned and notified CBFWA that they wish to forego their opportunity to utilize BPA funds for their participation in CSMEP for this current year. This action has freed up their budget for possible reallocation among other CSMEP participants. The CCT and NPT have requested additional funds to carry out tasks under CSMEP.

Frank requested that the MMG approve utilizing the MDFWP funds for this purpose.

ACTION:

The MMG approved recommending allocating an additional \$26,666 to the CCT CSMEP Contract and an additional \$70,734 to the NPT CSMEP Contract. This recommendation will be sent as a consent mail to the Members for formal approval. If there are no objections from the Members during the consent mail period a formal request will be sent to BPA to authorize this transfer of funds.

ITEM 13:

Next Meeting

The MMG approved the next MMG meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the CBFWA Office, Portland, Oregon.