



# 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.

The Authority is comprised of the following tribes and fish and wildlife 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 and 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

**DATE:** May 20, 2009

**TO:** Members Advisory Group

**FROM:** Brian Lipscomb, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Final Action Notes for the Monday, May 18, 2009 MAG Teleconference

**Members Advisory Group (MAG)**  
**Monday, May 18, 2009**  
**1:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. PDT**  
**@ CBFWA Office Portland, OR**  
[MAG Webpage](#)

Final Action Notes

**Attendees:** Brad Houslet, CTWS; Bruce Schmidt, PSMFC; Doug Taki, SBT; Jann Eckman, Kathie Titzler, Ken MacDonald, Neil Ward, Dave Ward, Trina Gerlack, Binh Quan, Patricia Burgess, CBFWA

**Phone/WebEx:** Ronald Peters, Cd'AT; Phil Roger, CRITFC; Alan Byrne, IDFG; Lance Hebdon, IDFG; Dave Statler, NPT; Ray Hartlerode, ODFW; Tom Rien, ODFW; Tom Iverson, Brian Lipscomb, CBFWA

<b>Time Allocation:</b>	Objective 1: Participation	100%
	Objective 2: Technical Review	%
	Objective 3: Presentation	%

**ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda**

**Action:** The MAG approved the draft agenda as presented. No objections.

**Note:** Although some of the agenda items were discussed out of order, the items in this document are listed in the original agenda order.

**ITEM 2: April 21, 2009 MAG Draft Action Notes**

Dave Statler, NPT, requested an edit to Item 7: Implementation of the Council's Amended Program. Under "AFAC" item 3, Dave suggested wording as follows to remain consistent with what was discussed at the Members meeting: "explore the feasibility of developing" consistent criteria. . .

**Action:** The MAG approved the April 21, 2009 action notes as final with edit suggested by Dave Statler. No objections.

**ITEM 3: Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) May 12-13 Meeting Update**

Brian Lipscomb provided the following update:

- The presentation of the final draft of the SOTR report was well received. CBFWA staff communicated that they anticipate presenting a final report with interactive CD to the Council at their July meeting in Portland.
- The Habitat Evaluation Project (HEP) proposal passed through the BOG process and was approved by the Council. The inclusion of the pilot project for Combined Habitat Assessment Protocols (CHAP) drew comments and will require further discussion but did not affect the overall approval of the \$115,729 HEP budget request which will accommodate the hiring of an assistant HEP coordinator. Brian, Ken MacDonald, Paul Ashley, and Jann Eckman will begin the recruitment process by working together on formulating a position

description and job announcement.

- The RM&E workplan proposal was reviewed and while there was some concern by Council members with regard to the speed in which the proposal was moving forward, overall the Council was supportive and stated that the work plan elements were consistent with their criteria in the recently adopted Program. There was some concern about the Council direction to Council staff, primarily voiced by the Oregon representatives, which may prompt future discussions.
- An update on the development of multi-year action plans (MYAP) was provided. Brian stated that the timeline is sketchy, but it appears that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Council may agree to roll-over all FY2009 projects to FY2010. Brian advised that he may be asked by the Council to survey CBFWA Members to determine any issues that might arise from such a decision. If the Council makes that formal request, Brian will survey the Members via email.

Patty provided the preliminary draft framework for action plans using the Kootenai basin and estuary as examples. The F&W Committee advised that CBFWA should start working with Patty to assist in formulating the templates and to talk about scheduling the development of the MYAP's. The Council will look to CBFWA staff to help facilitate meetings relative to CBFWA Members' participation. Brian advised that Tom Iverson will contact Patty to obtain the templates discussed and send them out for MAG review.

Brian stated that the discussions and scheduling of the MYAP's will probably have an effect on the categorical/geographical reviews. Over the next 4-6 weeks, there may be some opportunity for discussion as we think about timing and development of the MYAP's pursuant to the new Program and how that may fit with categorical/geographical reviews by the ISRP to culminate in a Council recommendation.

#### **ITEM 4: Implementation of the Anadromous Fish Monitoring Framework Workshop and Design**

Brian Lipscomb referenced the [Coordination Funding Decisions briefing](#) sent to Council Members Bill Booth and Rhonda Whiting on May 4<sup>th</sup> which provided a summary of the Council funding recommendations and BPA decisions for FY 2007-2009. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, a [Follow-up Memo](#) was sent to Bill Booth and Rhonda Whiting, conveying BPA's intention, as communicated by Greg Delwiche, to fund the CBFWA budget by the requested amount, and BPA's consideration toward providing additional funds (estimated at \$165K) for Member participation in RM&E, less 12.8% IDC (indirect cost rate).

Brian summarized the tasks and efforts within the draft [RM&E Timeline](#) as reviewed with the Members in the May 6<sup>th</sup> teleconference. Brian recalled that at the April 21<sup>st</sup> MAG meeting, the discussion centered on a two-week workshop to design the VSP parameters framework; however, it was realized that a more realistic approach would be a series of workshops preceded by some intense pre-work. The pre-work has already begun at the staff level (i.e. Bruce Crawford's emails requesting review of habitat and hatchery monitoring pursuant to the BiOp).

Ken MacDonald still must verify the applicable Members participation amount, which is primarily divided among four of the Members (ODFW, WDFW, IDFG, and NPT) currently not receiving monitoring coordination funds through their Accords, or that don't have an Accord. BPA was advised that the funding amount initially provided was an estimate pending Members' confirmation of participation costs.

The draft timeline reviewed by Brian, and the posted but not reviewed draft [RM&E Workshop Portfolio and Strategy \(version 7\)](#), require minor edits before final review by the MAG and recommendation to the Members. Brian advised that Ken will send out a final draft comprehensive outline and timeline for MAG review by Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> with comments due by COB Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> with the intent to forward the documents to the

Members for their approval at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> teleconference. If desired, MAG members could provide their edits from the documents posted direct to Brian or Ken, or wait until Ken sends out the edited documents on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Bill Tweit, WDFW, expressed his thanks for all the work that has been done up to this point, adding that it makes sense that we might finally get somewhere with this. Brian acknowledged that this has been a collective effort with much input coming from the Members' staffs.

**ITEM 5: CBFWA Work Plan Update**

As stated under Item 4, Greg Delwiche, BPA, has stated that it is BPA's intention to fund CBFWA for the amount requested and to supplement the CBFWA budget for Members' participation in RM&E, less 12.8% IDC (indirect cost rate).

The MAG reviewed and briefly discussed the [CBFWA AWP FY 2009 Budget](#) as presented by Kathie Titzler. Kathie advised that the amount shown for RM&E is entered as a placeholder until the ODFW, IDFG, WDFW, and NPT Members confirm their participation costs.

**Action:** The MAG approved the CBFWA AWP FY 2009 budget, as written and displayed on the screen (via WebEx/Infocus), for recommendation to the Members. No objections.

**ITEM 6: Council Amendment Program Review**

**Wildlife Advisory Committee:** Ken MacDonald presented the [WAC Amended Program Review](#). Under the 2009 Potential WAC Work Elements, Ken added that the WAC will hold a three day workshop in August to explore and begin to put together a wildlife monitoring framework for basinwide application.

**Anadromous Fish Advisory Committee:** Dave Ward presented the [AFAC Amended Program Review](#).

**Resident Fish Advisory Committee:** Neil Ward advised that the RFAC's recent focus has been on developing loss assessment methodologies for inundation. RFAC will provide the proposed methodologies for MAG review and comment at the June 15<sup>th</sup> MAG meeting. Neil stated that upon initial review of the amended Program, the RFAC found that overall much of what CBFWA submitted for resident fish is in the Program. At the June MAG meeting, the RFAC will provide a comparison similar to what has been presented by the WAC and the AFAC.

**Update on the Council categorical/geographic review process:** See Brian Lipscomb's comments under the Council meeting update Item 3.

**ITEM 7: Mitchell Act Funding**

Dave Ward reiterated the Members January assignment to the Fish Screening Oversight Committee (FSOC) which was for the FSOC to work with the MAG to develop strategies to maximize the likelihood of obtaining full and continued Mitchell Act funding for screens. Dave presented a memo to the MAG from the FSOC and CBFWA staff regarding [Mitchell Act Funding Needs for Fish Screens](#) in which Idaho, Washington, and Oregon provided estimates for FY 2010 full annual funding needs.

Ray Hartlerode, FSOC Chair, participated via telephone and provided a historic review of the Mitchell Act stating that the Act has funded fish screen construction and maintenance for many years and it was always the one reliable funding source for fish screens in the Columbia Basin, until about 10 years ago when the funding began being cut. In 1996 Oregon received 2.3M in funds but the present day funding is at 1.4M forcing the lay off of most of their screen technicians, the inability to construct additional screens, and address unscreened diversions. Idaho and Washington are experiencing similar circumstances.

Ray emphasized the importance of continued fish screen maintenance. He stated that over the years, an attempt has been made to shift the maintenance to land owners but it hasn't

worked very well. Even with the most concerned land owners, fish screen maintenance becomes a low priority when there are other things that are demanding their time. The issue is compounded by a lack of understanding as to how much maintenance needs to be done.

Ray stated that the funding requests reflect estimates that might be attainable to be able to keep the screens in service.

Ray requested assistance from the MAG to develop strategies to seek funding. The MAG briefly discussed different ideas and directions. A key participant in this arena, NOAA, was not represented in the meeting. The MAG resolved to request that the FSOC: 1) garner additional information about what is/is not in the 2010 budget and for the longer term, and 2) advise of an appropriate contact at NOAA with specific knowledge on this subject for CBFWA staff to contact to request a presentation to the MAG at the June meeting.

**FRIMA:** Dave Ward and Ray Hartlerode provided an overview and update on the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA). Dave stated that FRIMA has been reauthorized under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 but funding has not been allocated. Ray provided some background information stating that FRIMA was first enacted by Congress in 2000 providing money for screening and passage projects associated with irrigation and water diversion projects and facilities and it has been an excellent program for funding construction, especially on larger projects. Originally, the annual appropriation was at 25M to be divided between OR, WA, ID, and western MT. Ray stated that the most the states received was about 4M and that has dwindled down to about 1M currently, but with the reauthorization we look toward obtaining appropriations. Ray said that there is a 35% non-federal match requirement. Dave added that the current language of the Act states that BPA dollars can now be applied as a non-federal match. Ray stated that changes to the bill include that a project has priority if it is less than 2.5M (it was 5M), and the original bill directed that 6% off the top be allotted for administration by the USFWS even though the states were doing the coordination and the work. The 6% is now directed to be split 50/50 between the states and the USFWS.

FSOC would like consideration toward a letter drafted from CBFWA that would go to the Congressional Delegation requesting appropriations for the FRIMA program. Dave suggested that an appropriate course of action would be similar to what CBFWA Members did to support the reauthorization of FRIMA: FSOC would draft a letter for CBFWA Members consideration, realizing that NOAA and USFWS would have to abstain, recommending 25M in appropriations. Ray stated that a draft is already in process and will be presented at the June 15<sup>th</sup> MAG meeting.

#### **ITEM 8:**

##### **Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)**

Jann Eckman provided an update on formalizing the working relationship with PSMFC through a CBFWA/PSMFC MOA advising that CBFWA is continuing to work with Randy Fisher, PSMFC Executive Director, on the projects and the coordination through the Council categorical review process. CBFWA staff will provide updates as the process continues.

Bruce Schmidt, PSMFC, provided a [presentation](#) based on the StreamNet Steering Committee draft white paper: [Considerations for Regional Data Collection, Sharing and Exchange](#) (also called the Data Sharing Guide). Bruce stated that the presentation was developed for the Council's review at their July meeting; therefore, the focus is more on the regional data delivery system.

Bruce expressed his appreciation to be able to attend the meeting and provide his presentation. Bruce advised that the white paper is available for review on the [StreamNet website](#) (and is posted on the CBFWA website). Bruce stated that PNAMP, and others, may be interested in endorsing it and he and Ken MacDonald thought that it would be good for the CBFWA Fish and Wildlife Managers to have an opportunity to review it.

Bruce prompted for questions by first answering the question in the presentation “Why isn’t there a regional data delivery system?” Bruce stated that he thought that one primary reason is due to a lack of a comprehensive viewpoint.

Doug Taki, SBT, commented that with regard to standardized field techniques one of the biggest challenges is getting buy-in by everyone in the region. Doug stated that if there was more guidance from a high policy level to the field, that might help get this started sooner.

Bruce responded that he agreed with Doug about working toward standardized field techniques but added that he thinks there are some legitimate reasons why going toward complete standardization would not be possible on a short time frame, if it is at all possible. Bruce is hopeful that within the RM&E work that the F&W Managers can begin to determine how to work toward a standard method.

Ken MacDonald added that within the RM&E effort, one of the steps identified is to initiate the data management discussion after they determine what actually needs to be done, what gaps need to be filled, and how it will be reported.

Bruce stated that he welcomed follow-up feedback on his presentation. MAG members can forward any comments to Bruce at [bruce\\_schmidt@psmfc.org](mailto:bruce_schmidt@psmfc.org).

**ITEM 9: Members Summer Face-to-Face Meeting**

Jann Eckman advised that Montana is next on the rotation for the summer Members face-to-face meeting. The MAG discussed scheduling the meeting the first week of August or last week of July, and suggested the dates of August 4-5<sup>th</sup> or July 28-29<sup>th</sup>. CBFWA staff will determine host location availability and will communicate their findings to the Members and MAG. Potential agenda items were not discussed.

***Upcoming Meetings:***

**Members June Meeting** Wed, June 3, 2009, 1-4pm (via WebEx)

**MAG June Meeting**, Mon, June 15, 2009, 1-4pm (via WebEx)

**Council Meetings:** June 9-11, Whitefish, MT and July 14-16, Portland, OR

***Meeting adjourned.***