



# 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

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead 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

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

DATE: April 12, 2010  
TO: Members Advisory Group  
FROM: Brian Lipscomb, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the April 6, 2010 MAG Teleconference

## Members Advisory Group (MAG) Teleconference

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

1:00pm-4:00 p.m. PDT

@ CBFWA Office Portland, OR

[MAG Webpage](#)

### Final Action Notes

**Attendees:** Elizabeth Gaar, NOAA Fisheries; Tom Rien, ODFW; Bruce Schmidt, PSMFC; Brian Lipscomb, Jann Eckman, Tom Iverson, Dave Ward, Neil Ward, Binh Quan, Patricia Burgess, CBFWA

**Phone/WebEx:** Jason Kesling, BPT; Phil Roger, CRITFC; Lynn DuCharme, CSKT; Gary James, CTUIR; Lance Hebdon, IDFG; Scott Soultz, KTOI; Dave Statler, NPT; Cedric Cooney, ODFW; Carol Perugini, SPT

**Time Allocation:**

<b>Objective 1: Participation</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Objective 2: Technical Review</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Objective 3: Presentation</b>	<b>0%</b>

### **ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda**

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

### **ITEM 2: Draft Action Notes from the March 16, 2010 MAG Teleconference**

**Action:** The MAG approved as final the [Action Notes from the March 16, 2010 MAG Teleconference](#). No objections.

### **ITEM 3: MAG 2010 Teleconference Schedule**

At the Feb 2010 MAG teleconference the MAG agreed to meet on March 16 and April 6 with intent to revisit the schedule for the remaining 2010 MAG teleconferences at the April teleconference.

MAG Chair Elizabeth Gaar, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Members Chairman Rob Walton, NOAA, are scheduled to meet with Brian Lipscomb this month to determine the strategic meeting plan for the MAG for 2010. Following that meeting, CBFWA staff will send out an email advising of the proposed teleconference dates for the remainder of 2010 and to determine the date for the May MAG teleconference.

### **ITEM 4: Confederated Tribes of the [Colville Reservation Formal Notice of Withdrawal](#)**

Brian Lipscomb advised that CBFWA received the formal notice, dated March 18, 2010, from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Per the Charter, it will become effective 30 days after receipt, April 22, 2010.

As a result of the Colville Tribe's withdrawal, additional changes were made to the CBFWA Charter to remove the Colville Tribe as a Member and to include any related references to quorum or consensus decision guidance. Brian offered to review the Charter draft that was posted for MAG review. The MAG declined a

review of the changes during the meeting. Brian suggested that MAG members review the Charter changes with their Members. CBFWA staff will email the revised Charter to the Members for their review prior to the April 20 meeting.

Brian reviewed a [presentation](#) regarding the budget implications of the Colville Tribe's withdrawal. The Colville Tribe has withdrawn their request to Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to allocate \$67,974 of their coordination funding to CBFWA; however, CBFWA will not be required to provide the Colville Tribe participation funds of \$15,375 leaving a required budget reduction of \$50,631.

Brian reviewed three options to deal with the budget reduction as identified by CBFWA staff: (1) Reduce the Members unallocated placeholder (currently at \$95,954) enough to accommodate the reduction; or (2) Reduce the Members unallocated placeholder enough to accommodate 50% and reduce the CBFWA staff portion of the budget to accommodate the other 50%; or (3) Reduce the CBFWA staff portion of the budget to accommodate the entire reduction.

Brian requested guidance from the MAG. The MAG determined that this decision should be forwarded to the ad hoc Members Executive Committee (MEC) for their consideration.

**Action:** The MAG directed that the three budget options be forwarded to the ad hoc MEC for their consideration and request that they formulate a recommendation for Members consideration on April 20. No objections.

Brian clarified that he, as Executive Director, would present the budget option recommendation to the Members after advice and discussion with the MEC.

Brian wrapped up the discussion advising that the CBFWA Members' individual contracts are being updated and will be sent out by the end of this week. Brian added that the statement of work (SOW) portion of the contract has been revised to match the current work plan.

**ITEM 5: April 20, 2010 Directors and Tribal Chairs Meeting**

- Updated Meeting Agenda
- Status of the Resource (SOTR) Presentation

**April 20 Agenda:** Brian Lipscomb advised that at this time, there are no additional edits to the [April 20 draft agenda](#), (dated March 16) posted for MAG review. Dave Statler, NPT, requested confirmation of the importance and significance of the April 20 meeting. Brian stated that in his conversations with Members he has received feedback that it is time for everyone to meet face to face relative to the change in the direction for CBFWA, the commitment for that new direction, and for a commitment that CBFWA continue as an organization. Brian added that the policy representatives that he has talked with have confirmed that they will be attending with their Tribal Chairs and Directors.

**SOTR presentation:** Brian Lipscomb explained that the presentation on the SOTR is still being developed. CBFWA staff will email the draft presentation out for MAG review by the end of the current week, or beginning of the following week, with a request to receive comments back by COB, April 16.

*Note: CBFWA staff sent [the draft SOTR presentation via email](#) to the MAG for review on April 13.*

**ITEM 6: Work Plan Implementation**

**Policy Directive 1:**

Brian Lipscomb pointed out that the [\*Collaborative Information Management to Support Ongoing Assessments of VSP, Hatchery, and Tributary Habitat Effectiveness for Columbia River Basin Anadromous Salmon\*](#) document was previously reviewed with the MAG in the March teleconference. During the meeting the MAG provided feedback and CBFWA staff edited the document based on that conversation and emailed the edited draft to the MAG March 18 with a request for comment by COB March 26. Brian stated that MAG members did not submit any additional edits beyond those offered in the March teleconference.

Brian explained that this effort directly involves work that the anadromous fish folks will be doing and overall it sets a template for how we see things transpiring for resident fish and wildlife as we proceed toward monitoring strategies established for those areas of the Program. This effort lays out what we would like to see from this process, i.e. coordinated assessments, and actions taken by individual agencies and Tribes to begin making their data available in a way that creates a data sharing network.

The document (linked above) represents a collaborative effort between CBFWA staff, BPA, Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP), StreamNet, NOAA, and Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) staff. Through this collaborative effort a table of proposed workshops was also developed. Tom Iverson reviewed the [table](#). Bruce Schmidt, StreamNet, was in attendance and provided the “[Implications](#)” document referenced within the table.

Brian provided a synopsis of the process and advised that he, Tom Iverson, and Dave Ward are scheduled to meet with the planning group (i.e. the group referenced above that collaborated on the workshop table) on Friday, April 9 and Brian requested feedback to provide to the planning group. The MAG expressed concerns about the timeline and consideration toward flexibility to allow for full policy participation; comments about the need for clear explanations of the goals, objectives and overall direction of the process to gain support to commit adequate resources for participation; and questioned why this RM&E process effort is needed and how this particular effort relates to previous RM&E planning efforts in the Basin, and the previous efforts of RM&E and data sharing.

In response to the need for clear explanations toward gaining support, Brian referred the group to page one, first paragraph, second sentence of the document [\*Collaborative Information Management to Support Ongoing Assessments of VSP, Hatchery, and Tributary Habitat Effectiveness for Columbia River Basin Anadromous Salmon\*](#). Brian explained that the draft anadromous salmonid strategy, due out for comment in about a week, will lay out the monitoring strategy to collect information at an adequate level to meet NOAA’s guidance and to meet the objectives of the BiOp to provide data for VSP assessments for specific populations of anadromous salmonids over a period of time.

Brian stated that what still needs to be worked out is who will do the assessments, what collection of monitoring data will be used and from what projects, what the assessment methodologies and assumptions are, and when are they going to be done each year depending on when the data is collected. Brian provided an example stating that all of the goals and objectives of anadromous salmonids are adults and productivity numbers. Currently what we are able to report through the SOTR report is the objective relative to redd counts, or weir counts. We don’t have the VSP assessment for the run reconstruction to create those VSP assessments and be able to actually report the number of adults from those

monitoring efforts and so the need is there for ongoing assessments. The timing aspect relative to NOAA's 5 year status report may need to be clarified.

Brian pointed out the second paragraph (page one) of the [Collaborative Information Management to Support Ongoing Assessments of VSP, Hatchery, and Tributary Habitat Effectiveness for Columbia River Basin Anadromous Salmon](#) which describes a data sharing network. With regard to how far into the process or how much work must be done in order for BPA to make a request for a data management proposal, Brian stated that he believes it would at the point of having the data described and the necessary steps identified to build a data sharing network. Brian referenced Bruce Schmidt's input "Necessary elements of a data exchange network" for more information on what that would entail (see page three of the [Collaborative Information Management to Support Ongoing Assessments of VSP, Hatchery, and Tributary Habitat Effectiveness for Columbia River Basin Anadromous Salmon](#)). The current timeline should take us to the point where proposals can be put together by the last of August for submission into the categorical review.

Tom Iverson stated that it was hoped that the first workshop would take place in the last week of April. Brian suggested that a pre-workshop meeting be scheduled in April following the Members April 20 meeting. The results of the pre-workshop meeting will be a final document/table describing the workshop process. In conclusion, it was agreed that a pre-workshop meeting would be scheduled for April 21, 2010 from 8am-12pm at the CBFWA office in Portland with face to face participation encouraged. Brian reiterated the intent of the April 21st (pre-workshop) meeting would be to fully review the description and the expected outcome of the proposed workshops, and to review the timeline to implement the workshops over the next six months.

Chair Gaar requested that Tom Iverson provide a follow-up email on the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting outlining participants, stated objectives, and pre-work requirements.

*Note: CBFWA staff sent the [April 21 pre-workshop meeting follow-up email](#) as requested COB Thursday, April 8.*

**Updates on the Lamprey Monitoring and Assessment Sideboards, White Sturgeon Monitoring and Assessment Sideboards, and Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy Work Plan** were not provided other than to state that the work products are still under development.

**Policy Directive 2:** SOTR Webpage (Neil Ward and Brian Lipscomb)

- Update on modifications to the Basinwide Indicators template for the 2009 printed report.

Brian Lipscomb stated that CBFWA staff and NOAA have not had an opportunity to meet to discuss the modifications. Brian committed to providing an update at a future meeting.

**Policy Directive 3:** Eyes and Ears (Brian Lipscomb & Tom Iverson)

- **Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Reporting (MERR) Plan:** The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) has requested comments on the draft MERR plan. [Comments are due to the Council on Monday, April 26, 2010](#). The MAG will consider whether to develop CBFWA comments on the MERR Plan or rely on individual entities to provide their own comments.

Brian Lipscomb provided feedback on the MERR document stating that CBFWA staff reviewed it and are of the opinion that overall it is a good document that fairly accurately describes how to build a monitoring framework for the Program and the BiOp and associated recovery plans, but some editorial comments and slight tweaks could be made. Tom Iverson provided a [list of Proposed Draft Comments on the MERR](#). Scott Soult, KTOI, provided some potential options for commenting on the MERR on behalf of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho [in a letter to Tom Iverson](#).

The MAG discussed the best way to proceed, i.e. whether it would be best to provide joint consensus comments under CBFWA letterhead signed by Chairman Robert Walton or for each individual agency and Tribe to submit their own comments. The MAG members expressed differing opinions and did not come to an absolute resolution on how to offer comments; however, the MAG did agree that it would be beneficial for CBFWA staff to provide an analysis for review and potential use by the Members while not precluding the possibility of a consensus letter still being drafted.

**Action:** The MAG directed that CBFWA staff write a policy and technical analysis for their review and potential use. The motion was clarified that a joint CBFWA letter is still a possibility. No objections.

Following the motion, Lance Hebdon, IDFG, commented that once the analysis is provided there may be points that all the Members can all agree on but there are going to be folks that may want to voice strong comments that won't come through in a joint CBFWA letter.

*Note: CBFWA staff sent the [MERR analysis and draft letter](#) follow-up email as directed Friday afternoon, April 9.*

**ITEM 7: Snake River Recovery Planning Update** (Chair Elizabeth Gaar)

Chair Gaar provided a brief update stating that they are in the process of obtaining specific names from sovereigns for participation on a stakeholder committee or steering committee as they prepare the Snake River Recovery Plan. Chair Gaar added that Chairman Robert Walton may provide an update at the April 20 Directors and Tribal Chairs meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**MAG May Teleconference:** To be determined and communicated by email.  
**Directors/Tribal Chairs Meeting:** Tues, April 20, 2010, 10am-3pm, Embassy Suites Hotel, Portland, Oregon  
**Council Meeting(s) 2010:** April 13-15 in Boise, ID & May 11-13 in Portland