



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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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

Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Coordinating Agencies

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

Upper Columbia United Tribes

Final

DATE: May 23, 2011
TO: Members Advisory Group (MAG)
FROM: Jann Eckman, Interim Executive Director
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the May 17, 2011 MAG Meeting

Members Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

1:30pm-4:00pm (pacific)

@ CBFWA Office, Portland, OR

[MAG Webpage](#)

Final Action Notes

- Attendees:** Doug Taki, SBT; Elmer Ward, CTWS; Dave Statler, NPT; Jann Eckman, Tom Iverson, Dave Ward, Neil Ward, Binh Quan, Patricia Burgess, CBFWA
- Phone/WebEx:** Erica Maltz, BPT; Lynn DuCharme, CSKT; Lance Hebdon, IDFG; Sue Ireland, KTOI; Mike Falter, USFWS
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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------|
| Time Allocation: | Objective 1: Participation | 100% |
| | Objective 2: Technical Review | 0% |
| | Objective 3: Presentation | 0% |
- ITEM 1:** **Introductions and Approve Agenda**
- Update Added:** Mike Falter, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), announced that Michael Carrier has been appointed Assistant Regional Director for Fishery Resources in the Pacific Region of the USFWS. Michael was the coordinator of the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative and prior to that he was Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski's principal adviser on natural resource and environmental issues from 2004 to 2010. Michael Carrier is expected to represent the USFWS at the Members' level.
- Action:** The MAG accepted the [agenda](#) as presented with the addition of the update provided by Mike Falter.
- ITEM 2:** **Draft Action Notes from the April 19, 2011 MAG Teleconference**
- Action:** The MAG approved the [MAG April 19, 2011 action notes](#) as final. No objections.
- ITEM 3:** **CBFWA Business**
- FY 2010 Billings:** Jann Eckman provided a summary of the status of the [FY 2010 Billings](#) showing approximately \$89K in unspent funds. Jann advised that members have until the end of May to get their bills in for payment under the FY 2010 contract.
- FY 2011 Contracts:** Jann stated that the FY 2011 contract began on April 1. There are only a couple contracts outstanding for FY 2011.
- ITEM 4:** **Budget Oversight Group (BOG) Reschedule Request for FY 2011**
- At the April 19 meeting, the MAG directed CBFWA staff to submit a BOG reschedule request for unspent funds remaining out of the FY 2010 contract to create an unallocated placeholder in the FY 2011 contract in which to distribute additional funding for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes (SPT) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and address additional funding needs as they are identified during this fiscal year. The BOG reviewed the CBFWA request on May

4, 2011.

Tom Iverson advised that the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) denied the reschedule request. CBFWA staff appealed the decision with details regarding what specific tasks were delayed in FY2010, but BPA denied the appeal due to historic chronic under spending in the CBFWA contract.

The MAG discussed alternatives to addressing the SPT and USFWS funding needs given that both Members and staff portions of the budget are fully allocated.

Alternatives discussed include 1) that each Member could allocate 10% of their budget toward creating a placeholder for the current funding and future funding needs that may arise in FY 2011 contract year, 2) that any given Member could de-obligate funds to meet the request for funds from their fellow Member, and 3) that the additional amount to satisfy the funding requests could be pulled out of the staff side of the budget. Jann Eckman stated that in the past, transfer of funds from the staff portion of the CBFWA contract into the Members portion was not allowed; however, according to the email exchange regarding the denial of the reschedule request, the transfer of funds to/from the Members/staff budget is now an available option.

Chairman Taki suggested that when the budget is created for FY 2012 the addition of a placeholder be considered.

Action:

The MAG directed CBFWA staff to shift line items in the budget from unexpended staff funding to the Members budget for use as a buffer to grant additional Member funding needs once the original FY 2011 allocation for an entity is fully expended. Near the end of the contract year, if there is unspent Members fund, those funds would be shifted back into staff funding. No objections.

ITEM 5:

Briefing on April 20, 2011 Meeting with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) Fish and Wildlife Committee to Update CBFWA Status

Several Members met with the Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee and BPA staff to discuss the FY 2011 CBFWA work plan and budget on April 20 at the CBFWA office. The Council Members answered some of the questions regarding the FY 2012 and beyond funding process and were informed of the current status of CBFWA.

Chairman Taki referenced the posted briefing prepared by CBFWA staff stating that it provides a good overview of the meeting with the Council Fish and Wildlife Committee Members and BPA staff. The MAG briefly discussed their observations and information contained within the briefing. Chairman Taki stated that overall the meeting went fairly well but it was apparent that there are mixed messages with regard to the Status of the Resource (SOTR) website and report. Jann Eckman added that the meeting provided a good opportunity to update the Council Fish and Wildlife Committee Members and BPA on the status of the CBFWA Members and to have an opportunity to hear about the policy directives and receive feedback regarding future processes.

ITEM 6:

FY 2012 and Beyond Work Plan Development Issues and Schedule

At the March meeting in Boise, ID, the Members directed the MAG to begin to focus efforts on developing a FY 2012 and beyond work plan. CBFWA staff developed bullets that were briefly reviewed by the MAG at the April MAG meeting: *Assumptions and Considerations for Developing the FY12 and Beyond CBFWA Work Plan and Budget* (posted under April 19 MAG meeting). Several questions remained unanswered at that time.

After the April 20 meeting with BPA and the Council, CBFWA staff updated the draft briefing paper: [CBFWA FY2012 and Beyond Work Plan and Development](#). Tom Iverson reviewed the updated briefing paper with the MAG to prompt discussion regarding the best course of action to develop the work plan and budget.

Action: Chairman Taki directed CBFWA staff to email MAG members and call for volunteers to revitalize and populate the MAG subgroup. The subgroup is tasked with completing the assignment, as directed by the Members in the March 2011 meeting in Boise, i.e., to develop the draft CBFWA five year work plan and review the staffing levels to complete the work (see Item 9: [Members March 20, 2011 Draft Action Notes](#)). The intent is for the subgroup to develop an outline providing the structure and substance for the draft work plan for full MAG review in July and then on for Members' consideration at the August Members' meeting.

ITEM 7: **August 2011 Members' Meeting**

The Members requested a meeting in Coeur d'Alene in late August to discuss the 5 year work plan. Potential agenda items include: 1) Discuss and approve a 5 year CBFWA work plan and budget for submission to the Council and BPA, 2) Columbia River Treaty update, and 3) Check in on FY 2011 work plan implementation presentation by committee chairs.

Chairman Taki suggested moving the meeting to Montana (in Kalispell, Polson, or Whitefish) given that Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is on travel restriction. The MAG reviewed the [March 10th Members draft action notes](#) and determined that there was not a formal motion to hold the meeting in Coeur d'Alene. CBFWA staff will review Montana lodging and meeting venues to see if it is a viable option.

ITEM 8: **Update on Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) BiOp May 9, 2011 Hearing**

The latest hearing on the FCRPS Biological Opinion was held on May 9, 2011 in Judge Redden's court room. Tom Iverson reported that a ruling has not yet been made.

ITEM 9: **FY 2010-2011 CBFWA Work Plan Implementation Updates**

Policy Directive 1: Participate in and support ongoing assessments.

Update on the Coordinated Assessments Work Plan for Anadromous Fish: Tom Iverson stated that the Coordinated Assessments project is moving along successfully and rapidly. A workshop was held on April 21 in Portland bringing together the field biologists and the state Tribal data technicians. A summary of the [Phase II Workshop Key Themes and Decisions](#) is posted for MAG review, as well as a follow-up email to workshop participants outlining the [Next Steps](#) and the anticipated [timeline](#). The basinwide data sharing strategy first draft is expected to be completed by the end of August if not sooner (the draft will be shared across the Region). Another workshop is planned for September with the intent to adopt a basinwide strategy with funding priorities for BPA funding for data management. We hope to gain regional agreement on the sequence and priorities of work that needs to be funded over the next five years so that folks can develop and submit proposals in the Council's categorical review process and other funding streams.

Update on Resident Fish Monitoring Strategies: Neil Ward advised that the resident fish managers have continued their work on the development of the Resident Fish Implementation Strategies throughout the Basin. The managers are on track with their goal to have finished strategies available for the Council to consider providing to the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) by the end of August and in advance of the beginning of the Resident Fish Categorical Review process scheduled for the end of August or first part of September.

Update on Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy: Tom Iverson stated that the Wildlife Committee will be meeting in Bonners Ferry, ID on May 24-25th to continue work on the monitoring implementation strategies for wildlife. They are still working on creating high level indicators (HLIs) for wildlife and how those can be reported on a basinwide scale.

Update on Lamprey Monitoring Strategy: Dave Ward advised that the Lamprey Technical Work Group (LTWG) held a biannual meeting in Portland the first week of May and agreed to take on four assignments: 1) to re-engage on the lamprey monitoring strategy 2) to update the 2005 critical uncertainties document 3) to prepare a report on the progress of the 2005 critical uncertainties document and, 4) to prepare a synthesis report on the progress of all lamprey projects in response to the ISRP's comments on lamprey projects. All four of these related assignments will probably be folded into different chapters of one document. Working with the Council staff, it is agreed that could be done by the end of this calendar year. In addition, the LTWG is forging ahead on their assignment to develop passage metrics and standards. We are currently putting together a document summarizing all the passage work that has been done to date, the metrics used, the worth of those metrics, and if there can be standards developed for those metrics in the future.

In addition, Dave Ward announced that the Pacific Northwest Fish Screen and Passage Workshop will be held September 13-15, 2011 in Cle Elum, Washington. An [email announcement](#) was sent out on May 4. Dave suggested that the MAG pass the information on to staff that may be interested in attending. Additional information will soon be posted to the CBFWA website.

Policy Directive 2: [Status of the Resources \(SOTR\)](#) Update

Neil Ward began his update by commenting that despite the misperception regarding the value and utility of the SOTR in the discussion at the April 20th meeting with BPA and the Council, the SOTR data is being used by Council and BPA staff. This was apparent from the recent survey results as well as from frequent interaction with Council and BPA staff. In addition, by tracking the hits to the SOTR website, we can often identify the organization for which the user is associated. The tracking shows that a broad user group is utilizing the website.

Neil advised that the First Quarter 2011 updates were released last week. The white sturgeon section has been revamped and updated. The basinwide report is now available on the website and the printed version will be produced next week. Over the next quarter CBFWA staff will start creating the external user forums to get input from other users of the SOTR.

With regard to marketing of the site, Neil drew attention to the splash page announcing significant updates which pops up when the CBWFA website is opened. The splash page is updated as new information is available. When there is substantial unique or novel information available, an email is sent to a broad group consisting of agencies, Tribes, and individuals.

Dave Statler, NPT, suggested that it is important to keep what CBFWA is doing is out in front of the Region. Neil agreed that it is a timely idea that needs consideration in the near future. We are not the same organization that we were years ago and we need to educate the Region on the new CBFWA.

Policy Directive 3: Regional Activity (Tom Iverson)

Fish and Wildlife Program Implementation Update

Status Report on RM&E Categorical Review

<http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/budget/2010/rmeap/Default.asp>: Tom Iverson stated

that the Category B projects are scheduled to be discussed May 24, at a special Council Fish and Wildlife Committee. It is anticipated for the Council to approve the last suite of projects at the June Council meeting. The Council is developing an issue document that is due to be sent out soon for public review.

Wildlife Crediting Forum (WCF): Tom Iverson advised that the WCF is scheduled to meet for what is expected to be the last time on May 20. The group is working toward finalizing their outcomes to gain regional agreement on a written report and a table of habitat units (HUs). The table will eventually be integrated into the SOTR website and by way of a hover feature users will be able to see actual information (i.e., acres, HUs, priority species, etc.) when viewing the BPA funded management areas.

Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC) discussions regarding Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) membership in CBFWA: Tom Iverson advised that recent FPAC meeting notes reflected some discussion regarding restructuring of the Pit-tag Steering Committee and rewriting of the charter. There was a perception stated that the CBFWA organization would not continue and therefore the FPAC charter was in question, which in turn would affect the Pit-tag Steering Committee. Apparently with WDFW and ODFW pulling out of CBFWA, some folks interpret that to mean that they would also be pulling out of FPAC. Tom stated that he confirmed with WDFW/ODFW representatives that they did not plan to pull out of FPAC and intend to continue in FPAC as full participating members.

With regard to the Pit-tag Steering Committee, Steve Pastor, Chair, advised that they are working through how to restructure the steering committee and want to include interrogation sites that are off the mainstem. It is somewhat of an expansion of the PTAGIS project and the Pit-tag Steering Committee whose focus has always been on mainstem detection. Pit-tags are becoming so prolific that they would like to expand their interrogation sites, which involves lowering the standards for how to define the detection site and capturing the information that goes along with each tag. The Pit-tag Steering Committee is scheduled to meet in June.

Tom stated that BPA is writing up an All-H pit-tag planning document for the Basin. The initial draft is due to go out for agency and Tribe review over the next couple weeks. It is expected to lay out how/where the pit-tags will be used in the Basin over the next five years with the intent to be more efficient tagging the least amount of salmon and steelhead to get the most results.

Columbia River Treaty (CRT) Analyses Update to Council: John Fazio, Council Senior Power Systems Analyst, and Jim Ruff, Council Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations, provided a good summary of the CRT Analyses at the last Council meeting. To review the summary, go to:
<http://www.nwcouncil.org/news/2011/05/4.pdf>.

Upcoming Meetings:

CBFWA MAG: July 12, 2011, 1:30-4:00pm (pacific), in Portland

CBFWA Members: August 24, 2011, Coeur d'Alene, ID; Details Forthcoming

Northwest Power and Conservation Council Meeting(s): June 7-8, 2011, in Whitefish, MT; July 12-13, 2011, in Portland