



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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Final

DATE: September 19, 2012
TO: Members Advisory Group (MAG)
FROM: CBFWA Staff
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the September 12, 2012 MAG Teleconference Meeting

**Members Advisory Group Teleconference Meeting
Wednesday, September 12, 2012
1:30-2:30 p.m.**

Support material is posted on the [MAG Webpage](#).

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Doug Taki, Chair; Elmer Ward, CTWS; Mike Faler, USFWS; and CBFWF/A Staff: Jann Eckman, Tom Iverson, Neil Ward, and Trina Gerlack

WebEx - Phone: Phil Roger and Laura Gephart, CRITFC; Jonalee Squeochs, YN, and Elizabeth Gaar, NOAA Fisheries

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

Action: The agenda was approved as written. No objections.

ITEM 2: Draft Action Notes from the July 24, 2012 MAG Meeting

Action: The action notes for the 7/24/2012 MAG Meeting were approved as final. No objections.

ITEM 3: [NPCC's Program Evaluation Reporting Committee \(PERC\)](#)

The Status of the Resources (SOTR), Northwest Habitat Institute (NHI), Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP), StreamNet, and Coordinated Assessments are being reviewed by the PERC to confirm how these Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funded projects support the NPCC's information needs and ongoing initiative to develop High Level Indicators (HLI). The PERC intends to use this review to identify opportunities to streamline the NPCC's data management and synthesis processes.

On August 22, 2012, Tom Iverson presented to the PERC the SOTR project for facilitation and technical support. Tom O'Neill, presented the NHI project, a mapping function and database for HEP survey data to the PERC. The Wildlife Focus Workgroup identified three types of HLIs that focus on wildlife habitat and a NHI was identified as a source for much of the data necessary to provide those HLIs. The NPCC staff appeared to be backing away from reporting any wildlife HLIs except for HUs.

On September 13, 2012, the PERC will review the PNAMP, StreamNet, and Coordinated Assessments projects in Portland, Oregon.

On October 3, 2012, the PERC will present its recommendations to a special meeting of the NPCC Fish and Wildlife Committee. The committee will then take action on the recommendations at their October 10 meeting in Whitefish, MT; with a full NPCC decision at their November 10 meeting in Coeur d'Alene, ID.

Tom encouraged the Members to attend the PERC meetings and provide their comments to the NPCC's Program Evaluation Reporting Committee.

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 Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

National Marine Fisheries Service

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

ITEM 4: [BPA Budget and Fish and Wildlife Practices](#)

At the September 11, 2012 NPCC Meeting in Astoria, Oregon, Lorri Bodi and Bill Maslen, BPA presented a [BPA Fish and Wildlife Program Expense Budget Update](#). They discussed the current financial crisis within the Fish and Wildlife Program and referred to individual discussions they are having with several entities to negotiate funding reductions for a number of projects. BPA focused on the Integrated Program – the Expense portion of the F&W Program. Available funding for FY2012 was \$237 million at the start of the year. BPA added \$13 million for FY12-13 to cover overages. The current projection is for BPA to spend approximately \$252 million for FY12, which will leave the available funding for FY13 at \$240 million. The \$252M would be exactly 90% of the FY12 planning budget of \$280M. Though BPA did not say how much they are reducing their contract obligations, it appears that BPA needs to cut approximately \$10-20 million in projects. BPA is focusing on lower priority projects, projects that can withstand a one year deferral, and projects with weak linkage to the FCRPS. There was no discussion of the NPCC's role in this exercise. BPA indicated that they would restore the funding for most projects in FY2014.

Several agencies and tribes provided testimony on this subject. In general, the agencies and tribes agreed to help BPA through this crisis and declared that they were working on solutions for internal management of 10-15% reductions. The Nez Perce Tribe indicated that their project did not contribute to the over spending and that they would work with BPA to maintain the integrity of their programs.

CBFWA staff developed a preliminary memo titled "Review of Current BPA Integrated Program Financial Crisis" and distributed it prior to the meeting. The memo was labeled "For Internal Distribution Only" due to its preliminary status. The original staff memo was developed without any MAG or Member input and before BPA had publicly described their situation. The MAG discussed the issue of funding Accords at the expense of non-Accord projects and agreed that this was not an accurate interpretation of this issue; particularly because BPA is portraying the crisis as a lapse by all project sponsors in billing protocols. BPA's presentation ignored the 10 years of effort put forth by NPCC and BPA staff to develop budget tracking guidelines, processes, and tools to ensure an incident like this should not happen.

Tom I. provided a detailed history of the development of the Budget Oversight Group, PISCES and TAURUS software, and the budget rules that have been in place since 2004. It is very clear that this was not a project management problem, but a Program management problem that stemmed from BPA's lack of controls in their planning processes. MAG members asked what the impacts of the proposed project reductions would be to the overall Program. Staff is unable to analyze the impacts because the negotiations are ongoing, being performed with individually entities, and no comprehensive record is available for tracking the project level changes.

The MAG discussed possible comments or collaborative responses to BPA and NPCC regarding this financial crisis, but in the end determined that each entity will work directly with BPA to save as much of their programs as they can. CBFWA staff is available to provide analytical support for any Members that desire it.

Assignment: Doug Taki, Chair assigned staff to prepare and send a briefing summary to the absent Members and MAG representatives. He suggested that Members submit comments individually to BPA and NPCC to include an accounting of the budget reductions and how the Members and projects will be affected by these reductions.

ITEM 5: **CBFWA/F FY2013 Work Plan & Budget**

Tom Iverson reported that he is still gathering information to develop the draft CBFWA FY2013 work plan and budget for MAG's review. He should hear from the Upper Snake River Tribes' this week. The Kootenai Tribe is in agreement with their allocation and contributions from the three tribes of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission appear to be status quo. Tom I. asked Jonalee Squeochs, YN to review the draft CBFWA FY13 budget assumptions and confirm Yakama Nation's funding allocation. Jonalee Squeochs said she would speak to Steve Parker about it.

It is anticipated that the CBFWA funding will be adequate to support a full time Director that will operate as a Columbia River coordinator the CBFWA Members. This full time position will track the Fish and Wildlife Program processes (eyes and ears) and will participate in, or support Members participation in, NPCC and BPA processes. The funding will also support an administrative assistant and IT support to maintain the CBFWA website.

The results from the PERC committee will determine the level of funding that the Foundation may receive to maintain facilitation services for various technical committees and continue support of the Status of the Resources website. If adequate funding can be obtained through the PERC process, the current footprint at the Foundation can be maintained; although, the work performed by the Foundation staff will look very different from what it is today.

Staff will have a work plan and budget developed for the next MAG meeting.

ITEM 6: Other Regional Updates

Coordinated Assessments Project

Tom Iverson reported that the [August 24, 2012 draft Coordinated Assessments for Salmon and Steelhead Phase IV Workplan](#) is out for review and comment. This workplan builds from the earlier Coordinated Assessments (CA) workplans and identifies the next steps and expected activities required to implement the collaborative Basin-wide Data Sharing Strategy for Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead (Strategy) and initiate data sharing following the draft Data Exchange Template (DET).

The Coordinated Assessments working group is planning a workshop in early 2013 to create a Hatchery DET workgroup and DET data type expansion to include hatchery data elements. The status and future steps of the Coordinated Assessments project will also be discussed.

The Coordinated Assessments group is developing a Data Exchange Network proposal for an EPA grant which is due for submission by November 9, 2012. The 500k EPA grant will help build the infrastructure for shared data. Only 10% of the grant will go to CBFWA for facilitation services. If CBFWA is confirmed as an eligible sponsor, the MAG and CBFWA Members will need to review and approve the EPA grant proposal before it can be submitted to the EPA.

Program Evaluation and Reporting Committee

On September 13, 2012, the NPCC's Program Evaluation Reporting Committee (PERC) will meet to focus on PNAMP, StreamNet, and Coordinated Assessments projects.

Who will fund what pieces of data management outlined in the CA Phase IV Workplan are still being defined by BPA, NOAA Fisheries, and the states and Tribes.

Jann Eckman asked Elizabeth Gaar if she knew what happened to the federal agencies funding for regional coordination. Elizabeth said she did not know, but would ask Bill Maslen if the federal regional coordination funding would go to data coordination through the PERC process.

Wildlife Focus Workgroup

Kyle Heinrick, Chair of the Wildlife Focus Workgroup (WFW) decided to cancel the WFW meeting and site visit scheduled for September 26-28, 2012 in Pocatello, Idaho in consideration of BPA's request to rein in costs for FY12-13 (Letter from Bill Maslen to Fish and Wildlife project sponsors, June 6, 2012), and BPA's current apparent budget crisis. A tentative WFW teleconference is scheduled for October 11, 2012. Kyle will be resigning as chair of the committee and a replacement will need to be identified at that meeting.

ITEM 7: Next MAG Meeting

The next MAG Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24, 2012 from 1:30pm to

4:00pm. The tentative agenda items are the EPA grant proposal, CBFWA FY13 work plan and budget, NPCC's Program Evaluation Reporting Committee (PERC) recommendations, and BPA's fish & wildlife budget and project management practices.

The MAG discussed scheduling the Members Meeting in late January 2013.

Upcoming Meetings:

[Northwest Power and Conservation Council](#) Meeting(s): Oct. 9-10, Whitefish, MT and Nov. 6-7, Coeur d'Alene, ID

[NPCC's Program Evaluation Reporting Committee \(PERC\)](#) Meeting: Sept. 13, 2012
Portland OR

[NPCC Fish & Wildlife Committee Meeting](#): October 3, 2012 Portland OR - Agenda: Briefing on the results of the review by the PERC of the data collection projects funded by BPA to implement the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program.