



# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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**Final**

**DATE:** December 11, 2012  
**TO:** Members Advisory Group (MAG)  
**FROM:** Tom Iverson, CBFWA Staff  
**SUBJECT:** Action Notes for the December 6, 2012 MAG Teleconference Meeting

Members Advisory Group Teleconference Meeting  
December 6, 2012  
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Portland, OR

[MAG Webpage](#)

## Final Action Notes

**Attendees:** Mike Faler, Vice Chair; and CBFWF/A Staff: Tom Iverson, Neil Ward, Binh Quan, and Trina Gerlack

**WebEx - Phone:** Gary James and Gene Shippentower, CTUIR; Jason Kesling, BPT; Elmer Ward, CTWS; Elizabeth Holmes Gaar, NOAA Fisheries; Phil Roger and Laura Gephart, CRITFC; and Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS

Sue Ireland and Billy Barquin, KTOI and Doug Taki, SBT did not attend the meeting, but provided comments to Tom Iverson.

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

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

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

**Action:** The action notes for the 10/24/2012 MAG Meeting were approved as final. No objections.

**ITEM 3:** **Update: [Northwest Power & Conservation Council's \(NPCC\) Decision and Recommendations to Bonneville Power Administration \(BPA\) on Data Management Projects reviewed by Program Evaluation & Reporting Committee \(PERC\)](#)**

- Discontinue Status of the Resources Report (SOTR)
- [PERC Technical Services Work Plan](#)
- Fish Screening Oversight Committee (FSOC)
- Regional Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP) Team discussions through Wildlife Focus Workgroup
- Future of Coordinated Assessments

Tom Iverson provided an overview of the [NPCC's Decision and Recommendations to BPA on Data Management Projects reviewed by PERC](#).

The NPCC approved continued funding for PNAMP and StreamNet with 10-15% funding reductions to the projects. They redefined StreamNet's priority work to servicing data collected by projects funded by BPA and away from general fish information in the basin. PNAMP's budget reductions were directed to more efficient subcontracting for their web service work.

In addition, the NPCC recommended to BPA to continue to support the Fish Screening Oversight Committee quarterly meetings, workshops, training sessions, and web-based

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

products. Although the NPCC recommended the continuation of the FSOC activities the future of FSOC remains unclear as there has been no indication whether funds will be provided to implement the actions. The fish and wildlife managers were encouraged to contact the NPCC and BPA to express the importance of continued funding for the FSOC services and activities.

The final decision on the Regional HEP Team project has been deferred until the Wildlife Crediting Forum provides a final recommendation. The NHI project will be discontinued and the data will be transferred to StreamNet.

The SOTR report will be discontinued and a scope of work for technical services is being developed by a Council and BPA staff steering committee to cover any resulting data and reporting gaps as outlined in the draft [PERC technical services work plan](#). Discussions are ongoing to define scope of work and cost. They have identified the need for Neil Ward and Binh Quan to assist in the effort to shift the data over to a NPCC product.

The Wildlife Managers are supporting the Regional HEP Team's work by developing a 2-year funding recommendation that is out for review, and scheduled to go to the NPCC at the end of December 2012. The recommendation identifies a need for the Regional HEP Team effort and a request for funding support on 2-year increments to reevaluate priority work.

The Coordinated Assessments facilitation was not identified in the PERC recommendations and is currently unfunded. BPA, NPCC, and NOAA are discussing the continuation of the Coordination Assessments Project and its funding through a technical service contract. Tom Iverson has been identified to facilitate some of that work. *The fish and wildlife managers were encouraged to contact the NPCC and BPA to express the importance of continued funding for the services and activities associated with the Coordinated Assessment project.*

The FY12 CBFWA contract ends March 31, 2013. The FY13 CBFWA contract renewal is due for submittal next week to BPA. Tom I. notified BPA, that our contract will be submitted late. It is likely that all the discussions and negotiations won't be resolved until the end of January 2013. At this time CBFWF Staff's employment is uncertain because funding levels are unknown.

In conclusion, the fish and wildlife managers need to contact NPCC and BPA staff and discuss regional coordination facilitation needs for the upcoming year(s). Calls to Tony Grover and Bill Maslen will affect the level of support for continuing important technical forums that support the Fish and Wildlife Program.

**ITEM 4: CBFWA/F FY2013 Work Plan and Budget**

**Members' Status**

- [Burns Paiute Tribe Formal Notice to Withdrawal](#)
- [Shoshone-Paiute Tribe Formal Notice to Withdrawal](#)

**Discussion:** The Burns Paiute Tribe and Shoshone Paiute Tribe submitted their formal notices and resolution to withdrawal from the CBFWA organization, effective 3/31/2013. Tom I. stated that there may be more Members planning to withdrawal from the organization.

**Potential Work Plan Elements for FY13**

**Discussion:** Tom Iverson provided an overview of the draft [FY13 Activities and Options for CBFWA Future](#) to the MAG to assist in the discussion of the FY 2013 CBFWA work plan, budget, potential regional activities and products, and membership options and funding levels.

The FY 2013 regional coordination activities will likely focus on data management, data sharing and reporting related to the Program Amendment process and the BiOp remand process.

The most pressing issues for the MAG and Policy Representatives are for each Member to define their commitment to retain CBFWA membership and provide funding for staff and

the organization. Do the Members want to maintain their membership? Staff is seeking work outside the organization to arrange gainful employment by April 1, 2013. The fish and wildlife managers need to identify and request what services they may need performed by staff ASAP.

The options presented are 1) Status quo; 2) Maintain CBFWA charter via membership dues, without dedicated staff, and activate when needed; and 3) Eliminate CBFWA and continue the CBFWF as a non-profit consulting contracting agency. All these options are feasible. Time is running out, it is important that the Members make a decision on their funding level and membership commitment. The Staff is searching for work. Potential contracts currently being discussed are technical services to Council and BPA staff defined by NPCC's PERC, facilitation for the Fish Screen Oversight Committee, facilitation for Coordinated Assessments, and helping coordinate an Accord status and trends reports for the Yakama Nation.

Following today's interactive discussion, the Members Advisory Group will go back and meet with their policy representatives to discuss the three Membership options and potential funding contributions. The MAG will meet on January 8th to discuss their individual decisions regarding membership status and funding level commitments for staff and the organization.

#### **Winter Members Meeting**

**Discussion:** The Winter Members Meeting is tentatively scheduled for late February or early March 2013. The MAG will begin planning for the meeting (date, location, potential agenda items) at the January 8, 2013 meeting.

#### **ITEM 5: Other Regional Updates**

- **BPA FY 2012 Financial Results**

Linked below are news reports regarding BPA's fish and wildlife budgets and spending reductions for FY 2012 and 2013.

11/9/2012 - Columbia Basin Bulletin: "BPA Gets Spending Reductions from Fish and Wildlife Project Sponsors in Effort to Manage Costs" at <http://www.cbulletin.com/423800.aspx>

11/12/2012 - NW Fishletter #310 (3) "BPA Finesses Fish and Wildlife Budget Fix" at <http://www.newsdata.com/fishletter/310/3story.html>

11/12/2012 - NW Fishletter #310 (4) "Positive Revenue Results for BPA in FY 2012" at <http://www.newsdata.com/fishletter/310/4story.html>

**Discussion:** Last summer, BPA requested budget cuts by project sponsors because the FY12-13 Fish and Wildlife Program was over budget. The fish and wildlife managers cut their budgets over 15M, collectively, to help balance the Program budget, the result was a surplus in BPA's general fund account at the end of the year.

- **BPA RME Reporting Requirements**

10/30/2012 - [BPA Letter to Project Sponsors with contracts to conduct RM&E activities regarding MonitoringMethods.org and RM&E Annual Reporting Tool Training from Bill Maslen](#)

10/30/2012 - [BPA Guidelines for Developing Protocols in monitoring.org and Pisces Statements of Work for Adult and Juvenile Fish Data Collection and Analysis; and Other Indicators](#)

10/30/2012 - [BPA Project Reporting Requirements for RM&E Work Frequently Asked Questions](#)

10/30/2012 - [BPA Instructions for Completing RM&E Reports – October 2012](#)

**Discussion:** BPA is implementing new reporting requirements for RME projects to more easily access the information collected by projects to support their BiOp reporting.

- **Columbia River Treaty (CRT) Review Process**

Link to [CRT 2014/2024 Review website managed by USACE and BPA](#)

Link to [CRT History and 2010/2024 Review at bpa.gov](#)

**Discussion:**

Tom I. stated that the CRT review process is moving along to their phase 2 analysis. They are narrowing their alternatives and conducting detailed analyses to prepare a recommendation for public review and submission to the state department.

Mark Bagdovitz added that 2013 will be a busy year for the CRT review process. The public sessions are scheduled for summer 2013. They plan to submit the recommendation to the state department by December 2013 to give the state department enough time to make the national determination on the treaty in 2014. September 2014 is the last time to issue a termination notice for action in 2024. Anything past that date would extend the treaty another year.

**ITEM 6:****Next MAG Meeting****Action:**

The next MAG teleconference meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at 1:30pm to present their Agency or Tribes' decision or position regarding membership status and funding levels. We will also do some preliminary planning for the Winters Members' meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

[Northwest Power and Conservation Council](#) Meeting(s): Dec. 4-5, 2012 Webinar and Council meeting, 2013: Jan. 15-16, Portland; Feb. 12-13, Portland; Mar. 12-13, Portland.

[FSOC Subgroup Teleconference](#): Dec. 18, 2012, Portland.

[Wildlife Focus Workgroup \(WFW\) Meeting](#): Dec. 19, 2012, Portland.

[Coordinated Assessments Planning Group \(CAPG\) Meeting](#): Jan. 23, 2013, Portland

[Fish Screening Oversight Committee \(FSOC\) Teleconference](#): Jan. 24, 2013, Portland.