



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 300 | Pacific Center Building | Portland, OR 97204-1339
Phone: 503-229-0191 | Fax: 503-229-0443 | www.cbfwa.org

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: November 21, 2011
TO: CBFWA Members
FROM: Jann Eckman, Interim Executive Director
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the November 18, 2011 Members' Teleconference

CBFWA Members' Teleconference

Friday, November 18, 2011

10:00am – 11:05am (pacific)

@ CBFWA Office

Portland, OR

[Members Webpage](#)

[Final Action Notes](#)

Attendees: Elmer Ward, CTWS; Jann Eckman, Tom Iverson, Neil Ward, Patricia Burgess, CBFWA

Phone/WebEx: Claude Broncho, Chad Colter, Doug Taki, SBT; Aja DeCoteau, CRITFC; Lynn DuCharme, CSKT; Gary James, CTUIR; Brad Houslet, CTWS; Lance Hebdon, IDFG; Gary Aitken, Jr., Amethyst Aitken, William Barquin, KTOI; Dave Statler, NPT; Elizabeth Gaar, NOAA Fisheries; Edmond Murrell, SPT; Mike Faler, USFWS; Heather Ray, USRTF

Time Allocation:

Objective 1: Participation	100%
Objective 2: Technical Review	0%
Objective 3: Presentation	0%

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

Chairman Nathan Small, SBT was not available to attend the meeting; Claude Broncho, SBT, chaired the meeting on Chairman Small's behalf.

Action: A quorum was confirmed and the Members approved the [agenda](#) as presented. No objections.

ITEM 2: Approve Submittal of FY 2013-2015 Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) Proposal for Regional Coordination

Acting Chair, Claude Broncho, SBT, began the discussion by stating that at this time the SBT could tentatively approve the proposal but they won't have a formal action on their portion of the regional coordination dollars until their Tribal Council meets.

Tom Iverson advised that he has heard from a couple of the Members with concern about the funding aspect of the proposal. Tom clarified that the specific funding allocations from each of the entities does not have to be determined in order for staff to submit the proposal. The Members will need to discuss and make a decision on FY12 funding by the end of this year; however, the actual funding allocations for each agency and tribe for FY13-15 will be determined next spring when Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) initiates their decision making process for the regional coordination projects.

On November 9th, CBFWA staff emailed a memo: [Needed Action-Approve FY2013-2015 Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Foundation Proposal for Regional Coordination](#) to the Members providing information regarding the action that would be called for in today's meeting.

Tom I. explained that the proposal represents a new operating model for the Foundation and by approval to submit this proposal the CBFWA Members acknowledge that it will change the format of how the CBFWA functions. The CBFWA will be one of the work groups facilitated under the Foundation, but the facilitation of the other work groups will be out from under the CBFWA Charter.

Tom I. recalled that in 2009 the CBFWA membership developed and directed staff to implement three Policy Directives throughout FY 2010-11. Tom explained that the FY13-15 work plan keeps the three Policy Directives as priorities but changes how funding for each directive is addressed:

- 1) Policy Directive #1 will rely on contributions from all the fish and wildlife managers to address technical needs and concerns raised within the separate focus work groups.
- 2) Policy Directive #2, the SOTR report, is a standalone objective in the proposal that will rely on funding from fish and wildlife managers, BPA, and NPCC, depending on each entity's desire to provide funding to continue the website.
- 3) Policy Directive #3 is the eyes and ears function, i.e., the CBFWA focused workgroup. This forum will support the ongoing operation of the CBFWA charter, facilitation of the Members and Members Advisory Group (MAG) meetings, and will support staff to provide a monthly report on activities going on in the Columbia River Basin that affect the fish and wildlife managers. Staff will also be available to do analyses and develop policy and process recommendations.

The CBFWA task will operate under the CBFWA Charter and is intended to be funded equally from each of the Members' \$132K regional coordination funding (\$35K from each member). The other six objectives in the proposal will focus on the technical workgroups and the SOTR, and are intended to be funded both through CBFWA Member and non-Member contributions. The six forums will not be operated under the parameters of the CBFWA Charter but instead will operate under the direction of the participants in those forums.

Tom I. emphasized that the vital task at this time is to get the proposal into the NPCC so it can be reviewed by the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The proposal can then be used as a reference document to talk to other fish and wildlife managers, the BPA, and the NPCC. In the spring of 2012, we expect the NPCC and BPA to hold a workshop to discuss how to fund the technical forums. If that does not transpire, the fish and wildlife managers can get together to talk about how to fund the technical forums through individual contributions from regional coordination funds and identify if BPA and the NPCC are willing to contribute any additional funds to support specific activities.

Tom I. stated that at this time, no one has formally committed funds; however, there has been informal commitments and stated interests in allocating funds toward FY13-15: 1) NOAA's priority is on continuing the Coordinated Assessments project, the facilitation of data sharing, and also possibly some other tasks involved with the BiOp, and 2) USFWS has an interest in continuing with the resident fish, wildlife, and lamprey technical workgroups. Liz Gaar, NOAA, stated that Tom I. represented appropriately NOAA's substantive priorities for their part of the funding, and Mike Faler, USFWS, added that while he has not heard specifically about wildlife and no decisions have been made to date, there has been

quite a bit of discussion with regard to putting USFWS funds toward resident fish coordination and lamprey.

Lance Hebdon, IDFG, advised that he had to leave the teleconference, but before departing he made a motion to approve the recommended action to submit the Foundation proposal to the NPCC.

Action: The Members approved the submittal of the proposal for Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Foundation Project Number 1989-062-01, Program Coordination and Facilitation Services Provided through the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Foundation to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Regional Coordination Category Review by November 30, 2011. No objections.

Motion Discussion: --Elizabeth Gaar, NOAA, flagged that while NOAA supports the substantive items as discussed above, NOAA continues to feel that for their purposes the SOTR website is not particularly useful. Tom I. stated appreciation for Elizabeth's comments but explained that the way the proposal is designed NOAA would not have to contribute funding to that objective when it comes time to making funding allocations. Tom added that is the assumption staff made in the preparation of the proposal.

--Gary James, CTUIR, asked if there was a concern about meeting the funding. Tom I. stated that the purpose of submitting this proposal is to provide the opportunity to find the full funding for the technical forums but it is not a sure thing. The message at the heart of all of this is that the forums will not exist under the current level of funding that the CBFWA Members receive. We have heard from the States, and other non-members, that have been participating at the technical level that they may be interested in contributing because they do rely on the technical forums and therefore feel some obligation to support them. The gap is unknown and we expect we will need a regional effort to determine the commitment to support the objectives and determine a mechanism to fill the gap.

--Edmond Murrell, SPT, posed the question - what if NOAA and USFWS funds went into a CBFWA-like position which would be responsible for conducting some of the forums or other forums that the Members may want? Their activity would be for conducting and organizing the forums but not doing a lot of technical background work, unless the Members that participate in those forums want to pay to get that extra work done. If we had a couple extra FTE's we could at least hold all our forums and then it would be on an as-needed basis as participants would want to support it. Tom I. stated that Edmond made an excellent point. The level that the facilitators for these workgroups are funded will reflect the level of support that they provide the work groups. If we can fully fund the facilitator then they can facilitate the meetings and also put effort toward document development, organizing comments, and writing up documents as we have done in the past at CBFWA. If those positions are only partially funded, the committees will see less support and may only receive facilitation services.

ITEM 3: Discuss FY 2012 CBFWA Transition Funding and Work Plan Concepts

Referencing the memo that was emailed to Members on Nov 17: [FY2012 CBFWA Transition Work Plan and Budget Information](#), Tom I. stated that the information in the memo was provided as context for the discussion and to provide information for Members to use for their upcoming deliberations. Tom explained that the contract year currently runs April 1, 2011-March 31, 2012 and given that BPA requires 90 days to draft a new contract, we will need to send BPA our FY12 work plan and budget by January 1, 2012. Tom stated that the MAG is scheduled to meet on December 6 to review all the details of the work plan and proposed budget

and then the Members will need to reconvene before the holidays to provide the approval to forward the work plan and budget to BPA.

Referencing the Table on page 3 of the [memo](#), Tom reviewed the staff assumptions:

- 1) That NOAA/USFWS will continue their full contribution toward the CBFWA contract in FY12. Staff will include \$6K travel reimbursement for USFWS within that funding.
- 2) As informed at the last MAG meeting, we are not expecting the NPT to contribute to CBFWA.
- 3) That KTI will continue their contribution and membership. Gary Atiken, Jr., KTI, advised, that while they still have to run it by their Tribal Council, it is safe to assume that this assumption for KTI is fair.
- 4) That the USRT's will increase their contribution to the USRT organization to \$70K each and therefore CBFWA will be looking at a \$62K contribution from the USRT's.
- 5) That the Fort McDermitt Tribe will receive coordination funding starting in FY2012.

The total planning target for FY12 funding for CBFWA based on the above assumptions will be \$842K.

Referencing the Table on page 4 of the [memo](#), Tom I. explained that in FY12, the idea is that this will be a transition period to the FY13-15 model. We are building the FY12 work plan and budget as optimistically as we can to keep the core staff viable here at the CBFWA office through the FY12 transition. If the NPCC makes a decision in June through the regional review process to not fund the objectives, we would adjust the CBWFA staff at that time.

Tom I. stated that in FY12 the work plan maintains the three policy directives and he described what work could be done in FY12 to support the directives:

Policy Directive #1: Dave Ward has moved on so the anadromous fish coordinator position is vacant and we don't plan on filling it under the current budget levels. Neil Ward and Tom I. will facilitate the technical work groups to support this Directive. We expect fewer meetings over the next year with the committees only addressing the most urgent matters and we will have to slow down the pace with the implementation strategies. Considerable staff time will be spent soliciting support for the FY13-15 proposal. With regard to the technical committees, we expect to keep them viable but ratchet them back to quarterly meetings until we know the outcome of the FY13-15 proposal and funding.

Policy Directive #2: We will maintain the report and continue to keep it current with updates but we will probably minimize the upgrades. We had plans to expand a section for bull trout and white sturgeon but we will probably delay those upgrades. We intend to keep working with the NPCC on how the SOTR can support their High Level Indicators (HLI) report.

Policy Directive #3: We will continue to monitor as many meetings as we can and for FY13-15 and beyond we intend to build that up by way of monthly reports. A lot of effort will be placed on revising the CBFWA Charter and Foundation bylaws. In addition, our goal is to cut our rent in half so we will have to move the CBFWA office, hopefully by April 1, 2012. The regional coordination project review process will be ongoing through June 2012 and we fully expect to assist the Members in participating in that process, i.e., figuring out budget allocations, project presentations, response to the ISRP, etc.

Referencing once again the Table on page 3 of the [memo](#), Tom emphasized that the amounts listed for time and travel are assumptions that need to be confirmed.

Gary James, CTUIR, referencing the Table on page 3 of the [memo](#), asked if the \$701K that CBFWA retains for CBFWA staff will fund the core staff. Tom I. replied that we expect some project savings because of Dave Ward's departure that we hope to use to facilitate a move as well as a couple other issues we need to deal with, e.g., attorney fees; however, if we can roll those costs into FY11, then we can protect our core staff.

Acting Chair Claude Broncho concluded the discussion stating that we will move forward with the plan for the FY12 funding and work plan.

ITEM 4:

Next Meeting

Tom Iverson advised that the MAG is scheduled to meet on December 6 to review and discuss the FY2012 CBFWA Transition Work Plan and Budget for Members' consideration.

The Members agreed to schedule a teleconference in mid-December to discuss and approve the FY 2012 work plan and budget for submission to the Bonneville Power Administration in January 2012.

The Members identified two possible dates: Friday, December 16, 10am-12pm (pacific) or Monday, December 19, 1pm-3pm (pacific) and requested that staff query Members via a Doodle poll.

Update: A Doodle poll was sent to the Members on November 18th. The date selected by the majority response is Mon, Dec 19, 1:00-3:00pm (pacific).

Upcoming Meetings:

[CBFWA MAG](#): Tues, Dec 6, 2011, 1:30-4:00pm (pacific), Portland, OR
[Northwest Power and Conservation Council](#) Meeting(s): Dec 6-7, 2011, Webinar and Council meeting; Jan 10-11, 2012, Portland, OR.