



March 27, 2000

TO: Wildlife Committee (WC)

FROM: Michele Beucler, Chair

for

SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for the March 15-16, 2000 Wildlife Committee Meeting in Spokane

If there are no objections within five days, these actions will be considered approved. If you have any questions or comments please contact Frank Young by phone at 503-229-0191 or by e-mail at frank@cbfwf.org.

Attendees: Michele Beucler and Stacey Stovall (IDFG), Haace St. Martin (BPT), Carl Scheeler (CTUIR), Anders Mikkelsen (SBT), Tracey Hames (YIN), Maureen Smith (USFWS), Susan Barnes (ODFW), Brian Allee, Frank Young and Tom Giese (CBFWA), Paul Ashley (WDFW), Robert Matt (CDAT), Steve Judd and Matt Berger (CTCR), Ray Entz (KT), Dale Becker (CS&KT) Scott Soultz (KTOI), and B.J. Kieffer (STOI).

By Phone: Robert Walker (NWPPC), Greg Sieglitz (ODFW), Jenene Ratassepp (WDFW), and Theodora Strong (YIN).

Time Allocation: *Objective 1 = 20%, Objective 5 = 10%*

ITEM 1: Review and Approval of Agenda

ACTION: The agenda was approved as modified with the addition of Data Management as new ITEM 11.

ITEM 2: Action Notes

ACTION: Any additions or corrections to the February 24, 2000 Action Notes should be sent to Frank Young by March 24, 2000.

ITEM 3: Monitoring and Evaluation Report Status

Discussion: Frank Young reported that the Monitoring and Evaluation Report letter of transmittal was approved at the March 1, 2000 Members Management Group meeting and that the report will be sent to the Northwest Power

Planning Council (NWPPC or Council) as soon as the letter is signed by the Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) Chair.

ITEM 4: Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP) Workshop Announcement

Discussion: Maureen Smith reported that she has not received any responses from the announcement sent to the Wildlife Committee (WC or Committee) for attendance at the May 1-5, 2000 HEP Workshop at Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge. Another class may be scheduled for the fall if there is adequate interest. Paul Ashley cautioned that such a course might not be possible because of his workload. The possibility of an advanced course is also being considered for those who have already had the initial HEP course.

ACTION: Contact Maureen Smith soon if there is an interest in a future HEP class this year.

ITEM 5: Status of Crediting Negotiations

Discussion: Michele Beucler reported that she has concluded from discussion with the Council staff that the crediting issue needs to be addressed under the Council's Amendment Process since the Council seems to have given a low priority to continuing the current negotiations.

ITEM 6: Update on Collaborative Analytical Team Activities (CAT)

Discussion: A progress report from the last CAT meeting was distributed to members prior to the meeting.

ITEM 7: FY 2001 Project Renewal Process

Discussion: Michele Beucler reported that the Ad Hoc Process Subcommittee met with the Council staff to determine what type of acquisition projects qualified as "ongoing" under the Council's Project Renewal Solicitation for FY 2001. Council staff indicated that new acquisitions could continue in FY 2001 under the umbrella projects approved for FY 2000, so long as they were consistent with the scope of the project and were approved by CBFWA.

Frank Young described the schedule for the first two provincial reviews and encouraged the members to begin preparing for the reviews by reviewing the draft materials developed jointly by the NWPPC and CBFWA staffs. Frank recommended that the Committee develops a balanced FY 2001 budget, so that wildlife projects undergoing provincial reviews would have a Committee-approved budget. Frank described a "strawman" budget alternative for balancing the FY 2001 budget. He also

stated that contracts for the CBFWA travel and compensation are being renewed and that Kathie Titzler would be in contact with the members to discuss their contracting needs.

ACTION: Frank Young will revise the strawman FY 2001 budget to include a column for Amount Requested for FY01 and a column for Cumulative FY01 Requested so that it is apparent to the Council that needs are not being met with current budgets.

ITEM 8: Amendment Process

Discussion: Tom Giese requested feedback on the draft products of the Ad Hoc Amendment Advisory Committee. He is particularly interested in recommendations for wildlife amendments that have the full support of the Committee. He requested that the group also provide him with suggestions for material in the existing Program that should be carried forward into the amended Program.

ACTION: Provide wildlife recommendations to Tom Giese by March 31, 2000.

ITEM 9: "Clear the Air" and "Why Do We Come to These Meetings"

Discussion: Committee members expressed their feelings about the FY 2000 project ranking process and the hope that the process used for FY 2001 would be better. Michele Beucler made a presentation on the purpose of the Wildlife Committee and CBFWA, the complexity of our process, the technical fallacy of using ranking criteria to allocate money, and common elements of our acquisition programs. She asked the group to reflect on whether the processes used in the past have been effective in accomplishing the collective goals of the Committee.

ITEM 10: Good of the Order

Discussion: Brian Allee encouraged Committee members to become engaged in the provincial review process to assure that wildlife is fully addressed as we transition into this new process. It is expected that the subbasin summaries for all subbasins will be improved (especially since funding is provided for that purpose). He stated that a letter would be sent from the Council, March 17, 2000 initiating the process and establishing the schedule for the first two provinces (Inter-mountain and Columbia Gorge). Brian explained that the process has three key public meetings:

1. Assessment
2. Planning
3. Project Review (ISRP and CBFWA) as well as planned site visits for Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP).

Brian stated that those provinces reviewed later would be held to a higher standard because they will have had longer to prepare and can take advantage of lessons learned in the earlier reviews.

During the question period the Committee addressed concerns that the CBFWA staff was not representing wildlife interests at the same level as anadromous and resident fish and that the wildlife coordinator position at one quarter time was inadequate.

Brian stated that any appearance of bias by staff was not intentional and emphasized the importance of Members participating in regional activities to assure wildlife issues are addressed. The staff can call such opportunities to the Committee's attention, but cannot represent their diverse specific interests unless a consensus position on the issue has been established.

The Committee also requested that the CBFWA staff prepare "Executive Summaries" of complex issues to allow them to determine the relative importance of information being transmitted to them from the CBFWA to wildlife.

ACTION: Brian Allee will develop a response to the Committee on their request for more CBFWA staff resources devoted to wildlife issues. The CBFWA staff will provide Executive Summaries of complex issues for the Committee.

ITEM 11: Data Management

Discussion: Tom Karier (NWPPC Member, WA) provided a handout on data management and explained that he was heading an effort in response to a request from his Governor to provide a report on Fish and Wildlife Program expenditures with an assessment of the benefits. In response to this request Tom has discovered that it is very difficult to make comparisons among the states of data collected because there is no uniform method of collecting and reporting information. Tom is now heading an effort by the Council to assess the feasibility of standardizing data collection methodology and format so that information can be compared and combined region-wide.

ACTION: Tom Karier asked that comments on his handout be provided through Stacy Horton (NWPPC Staff) and stated that a revision would be available soon.

ITEM 12: Time and Location of Next Meeting

Discussion: The next meeting will be March 30-31, 2000 in Portland.

Subcommittees

1. Crediting

Membership: Carl Scheeler (Chair), Joe DeHerrera, Phil Havens, Susan Barnes, and Michele Beucler.

Deliverables: Develop method of dealing with crediting for operational and secondary losses. Develop assigned definitions and draft rationale for recommended approach. Work with the NWPPC and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to resolve crediting issues and bring recommendations to the WC for consensus.

2. Ranking

Membership: Ray Entz (Chair), Anders Mikkelsen, and Stacey Horton.

Deliverables: Develop proposal for new criteria to be reviewed and commented on by the Committee.

Timeline: Subcommittee will remain inactive until crediting issue is resolved and subbasin planning activities are completed.

3. Relative Values

Membership: Paul Ashley (Chair), Matt Berger, Susan Barnes, Robert Matt, and Ray Entz.

Deliverables: This subcommittee will remain inactive until the crediting issue is resolved.

4. Operational Losses

Membership: Scott Soultz (Chair), Ed Bottum, Paul Ashley, and Maureen Smith.

Deliverables: Develop a draft Request for Proposals, addressing wildlife losses due to dam operations, for full Committee review. Develop definition of operational losses with supporting rationale. This subcommittee will work with the Crediting Subcommittee to resolve crediting issues with the NWPPC and BPA.

5. Long Term Operations and Maintenance

Membership: Loren Kronemann (Chair), Michele Beucler, Carl Scheeler and Jenene Ratssepp.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

Membership: Robert Walker (Chair), Paul Ashley, Susan Barnes, Matt Berger, Carl Scheeler and Joe DeHerrera.

Deliverables: 1. Develop an interactive/standardized HEP modeling program that ties both vegetative and species response to mitigation activities.

- Develop a prototype program for review within three months.
- Funding will be through the Wildlife Plan money.
- Complete program with a Committee review within six months.
- Make program available through existing web sources, i.e. BPA Net or StreamNet; also, explore a stand-alone system (CD, Diskettes, etc.) cost vs. the Net cost.