



January 2, 2003

TO: Members Management Group (MMG)

FROM: Rod Sando 

SUBJECT: 12/17/02 MMG Action Notes

If there are no objections within five days, these actions will be considered final.

**MEMBERS MANAGEMENT GROUP
MEETING/CONFERENCE CALL
Tuesday, December 17, 2002
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
CBFWA Office, Portland, OR**

Draft Action Notes

Attendees: John Palensky, NMFS; Dave Ward, ODFW; Peter Hassemer, IDFG; Cat Black, CRITFC; Keith Wolf, Terry Luther, CTWSRO, Maureen Smith USFWS; Ron Peters, CdAT; Doug Taki, SBT; Ray Entz, Joe Maroney, KT; Carl Scheeler, CTUIR; Rod Sando, Jann Eckman, Neil Ward, Tom Iverson, Frank Young, Tom Giese, Kathie Titzler, Trina Gerlack, CBFWA

By Phone: Fred Olney, USFWS; Gary James, CTUIR; BJ Kieffer, Spokane; Guy Dodson, SPT; Greg Sieglitz, ODFW; Dave Statler, NPT; Tom McDonald, CSKT; Dave Fast, Mel Sampson, YIN; David Johnson, WDFW; Chris Hunter, MDFWP; Dave Johnson, NPT, Rob Lothrop, CRITFC

Time Allocation:

Objective 1. FY 2003 Renewal Process	45%
Objective 2. Rolling Province Review and Subbasin Summaries	0%
Objective 3. FY 2002 Adjustments	18%

ITEM 1: **Strategy to Respond to Bonneville** – Tom Giese, CBFWA

Discussion: Tom Giese presented the draft BPA budget talking points resulting from the 12/16/02 informal conference call meeting with the MMG. The fish and wildlife managers began a discussion on how they might respond regarding long-term and short-term strategies. CRITFC is working on a four part message to provide other options and prevent budget cuts. CRITFC strongly suggested contacting the NWPPC Members to deliver a unified message from the Members, F&W Managers, Project Sponsors, Partners, local farmers, and land owners.

ITEM 1:
Discussion
continued:

Strategy to Respond to Bonneville – Tom Giese, CBFWA

Tom Giese drafted a memo outlining three questions for the NWPPC to consider at their 12/19/02 special meeting.

1. Has the NWPPC determined the scope of the budget problem?
2. Has the NWPPC determined the process and criteria by which it would identify project cuts?
3. Has the NWPPC examined alternative solutions to any budget problem?

Tom Iverson contacted John Ogan (NWPPC) to determine if time would be made available on the 12/19/02 NWPPC meeting agenda for Members and public comment. John Ogan indicated that opportunity for public comment would be provided at the meeting.

ACTION:

The MMG assigned Rod Sando to deliver the presentation to the NWPPC at the Thursday, 12/19/02 meeting that the F&W Managers do not support the budget cuts, provide other options or solutions, and request a public meeting. MMG suggested that prior to the meeting, all interested parties need to call individually to relay messages to Council Members.

ITEM 2:

BPA's FY 2003 Budget – Tom Iverson and Tom Giese, CBFWA

Discussion:

The NWPPC staff and BPA staff are currently ground-truthing BPA's estimated FY 2003 Accrual Budget. Once they have agreed that the accrual estimates for each project are reasonably accurate, BPA will release the budget for public review and comment. CBFWA will likely facilitate the process for responding to and commenting on BPA's estimates. Also, once the ground-truthing has occurred, there will be a better indication of how much BPA intends to cut from the FY 2003 projects.

The MMG discussed how, if at all, CBFWA should be involved in reducing this year's project budgets by \$30 to \$40 million before the end of February. They recognize the value of the F&W Managers' expertise and feel the Managers should continue to participate by providing comments and continue to communicate F&W funding needs to the NWPPC.

ACTION:

No action was taken at this time.

ITEM 3:

Update on the BPA Contracting Survey – Neil Ward, CBFWA

Since the completion of the survey, additional project sponsors have contacted CBFWA staff indicating that they are experiencing contracting difficulties, difficulties that did not exist when the CBFWA initially solicited for comments. Furthermore, other project sponsors that have recently engaged in contract negotiations with BPA are identifying similar experiences. In addition, project sponsors indicated that BPA is implementing policies that were not included in letters from BPA dated November 20, 2002, and December 10, 2002. In an effort to increase sample size, better document difficulties from throughout the Columbia River Basin and among project types (i.e., resident fish, anadromous fish, and wildlife, Endangered Species Act [ESA] and non-ESA oriented) and evaluate the consistency of the COTRs implementation of BPA policy, Neil suggested project sponsors should be provided with an additional opportunity to respond to the survey.

ACTION: Solicitation for comments will commence on December 18, 2002, at which time all project sponsors as well as CBFWA committee (i.e., Resident Fish, Wildlife, and Anadromous Fish) representatives will be emailed a revised survey. Solicitation will conclude on January 17, 2002, with results presented to the MMG during the February MMG meeting.

ITEM 4: Update on RM&E Activities – Frank Young, CBFWA

Discussion: Frank provided an update on activities of the ad hoc RME Workgroup since the 11/26/02 MMG meeting. He stated that the Workgroup had provided comments on the draft SOW for the Collaborative Proposal during a December 5, 2002 conference call and had requested Dave Marmorek incorporate these comments into the next draft. He reported that Nicole Ricci of BPA participated in the conference call and agreed that BPA would provide written comments on the revised draft SOW. The Workgroup is currently waiting to receive those comments from BPA. A decision on the next step will be made after receipt of comments from BPA and will be influenced by the nature and extent of the comments. Frank requested that the MMG approve development of a contract with ESSA to assist Members in the development of documents relative to the Rolling Provincial Review and further requested that Members identify funds allocated to them, in the Members' budget of the CBFWA Contract, that they would be willing to contribute for this purpose.

ACTION: Pending review of the draft SOW, the MMG approved entering into a contract with ESSA for an amount not to exceed \$35,000 for assistance in developing documents relative to the Rolling Provincial Review.

Lunch

ITEM 5: Update on Mainstem Amendment Activities – Neil Ward, CBFWA

Discussion: During the November 20, 2002 meeting, the CBFWA Mainstem Amendment Task Force (Task Force) reviewed a set of principles that include guidance from the WE Team Report (1997), the Tribal Vision Paper (1999), and the June 2001 CBFWA consent letter of recommendation to the NWPPC. Since that meeting, additional comments have been received and incorporated into the document for a final review at the December 20, 2002 meeting.

At the November 20th meeting, the Task Force suggested that a technical work group should be developed to perform operational analyses. On December 9, 2002, the technical workgroup reviewed a draft flow analysis provided by CRITFC and subsequently requested that CRITFC perform additional analyses (revised models will be available in January) incorporating the participants' concerns about the various flow and reservoir regimes.

The RFC met on December 13, 2002, per the MMG request, to discuss the need for resident fish manager participation in the presentation to the NWPPC during their January 15, 2003 meeting. During this meeting Dave Ward and Neil Ward stressed that the purpose of the presentation to the NWPPC was to present the biological needs of the species and not mainstem operations. The RFC discussed the needs of bull trout (specifically adfluvial populations) and white sturgeon. The USFWS, IDFG, and MT indicated that participants from their agencies would either participate in or provide information for the presentation.

ACTION: No action was taken, discussion only item.

ITEM 6: Within-Year Budget Modification Process – Neil Ward, CBFWA

The BPA has indicated that a limited amount of funds will be made available (most likely by mid-spring) for within-year adjustments. Participants acknowledged that the development of allocation criteria will be essential to provide recommendations under the limited funding scenario; however, most participants suggested that due to the workload associated with the current budget balancing activities, efforts to develop allocation criteria should be postponed. Despite the desire to delay initiating efforts to develop criteria and guidelines, participants acknowledged the amount of time that will be required to develop the process and subsequently suggested that efforts be initiated during the January MMG meeting.

ACTION: Due to other pending Basin issues, the MMG agreed to revisit this agenda item at the January MMG meeting.

ITEM 7: Proposal for an MMG Workshop (January 7-8, 2003) on CBFWA Strategic Vision – Tom Giese and Rod Sando, CBFWA

Discussion: Rod reviewed the draft proposal and discussed the upcoming workshop. The MMG business meeting will be the morning of January 7 and the workshop will begin after lunch. Rod expressed the value of attending the MMG workshop and encouraged all MMG members to bring their alternates along to participate in the strategic vision of CBFWA.

ACTION: The MMG approved the draft proposal and staff will distribute a draft agenda for the January 7-8, 2003 meeting.

ITEM 8: Winter Members Meeting - January 21 & 22, 2003 – Rod Sando, CBFWA

Discussion: Rod provided a draft agenda outline and information regarding possible speakers and panel participants. He asked the MMG if they considered inviting the public and the media to hear Winona Laduke speak.

ACTION: The draft agenda will be revised and sent to the MMG for review. All attendees for the CBFWA Members Meeting must RSVP by January 10, 2003.

ITEM 9: Next Meeting – Rod Sando, CBFWA

January 7, 2003, 9:00 – 12:00 p.m., in conjunction with the MMG/Staff Workshop. Place TBA

ACTION: The meeting is confirmed and staff will distribute a draft agenda for the January 7 meeting.