



DATE: April 30, 2003
 TO: Members Management Group (MMG)
 FROM: Jann Eckman *Jann Eckman*
 SUBJECT: Action Notes for the 4/22/03 MMG Meeting

MEMBERS MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING
 April 22, 2003
 Boise, Idaho

Action Notes

Attendees: Amos First Raised, BPT; Doug Taki, SBT; Albert Teeman, BPT; Dave Statler, NPT; Carl Scheeler, CTUIR; Maureen Smith, USFWS; Bill Hutchinson, IDFG; John Palensky, NMFS; Fred Olney, USFWS; Paul Lumley, CRITFC; Sue Ireland, KTI; Dean Adams, BPT; Joann Hunt, Council; Guy Dodson, SPT; Kathie Titzler, Neil Ward, Jann Eckman, Rod Sando, Tom Iverson, and Tom Giese, CBFWA

By Phone: Dave Ward, ODFW; Rob Lothrop, CRITFC; Paul Ward, YN, David Johnson, WDFW; Clint Muhlfeld, MDFWP

Time Allocation:	Objective 1. Project Recommendations	77%
	Objective 2. Regional Issues	20%
	Objective 3. Annual Report	3%

Information: 4/23/03 Senator Crapo's Field Hearing was Postponed

Discussion: Based on the preliminary draft opinion issued by Judge James A. Redden, Senator Crapo's Field Hearing was postponed. The draft says the BiOps dependence on so-called federal, state, tribal, and private off-site mitigation measures to boost fish survival is "untenable." For more information, please read the report in the 4/18/03 issue of the Columbia Basin Bulletin or visit <http://www.cbulletin.com>.

ITEM 1: Update from the April 8-10, 2003 Council Meeting

Discussion: Rod briefed MMG on the contract management systems presentation to the Council. He indicated that the Federal FIA System and the SRFB's PRISM system demonstrate that there are reasonable and effective systems available. Rod encouraged the MMG to look at the ISAB report on Habitat. The report basically shows that it is not reliable to measure habitat improvements at this point. Rod stated that the Council approved the mainstem amendment. John said the IT will meet in the afternoon of the 30th and they have asked the Council to talk about the mainstem amendment. Sue Ireland asked what the mechanism is for implementing the mainstem amendment. John said it is a good question to ask the Council and said the meeting was open to all MMG folks to attend.

ITEM 2: Draft Report on F&W Funding Needs for the BPA's Safety Net-Cost Recovery Adjustment Clause (SNCRAC)

Discussion: Tom G presented a draft report, titled "Results of the Provincial Review: Estimated Budget Needs Through FY 2006" and discussed the underlying assumptions. The Provincial Review identified about \$320 million in annual proposals that have had thorough scientific and management review. This is the best available estimate of BPA fish and wildlife responsibilities. The MMG suggested that this report should form the basis for the first part of the CBFWA Annual Report.

ITEM 3: FY02 Closing Reports

Discussion: Kathie summarized the end-of-year reports. The MMG discussed the billing process and reviewing their individual allocations. Kathie offered to work with any MMG member that might need assistance with their billing/accounting.

ITEM 4: Mainstem/Systemwide

Discussion: Tom I. indicated that the Council did not have enough information to expedite funding Projects 35007, 35019, and 35047 as requested by BPA. Discussion on these projects was delayed until Monday, 4/28. Council will make a funding recommendation at their Walla Walla meeting. The Project Sponsor meeting is scheduled for 4/24.

ITEM 5: Recommendation to Council & BPA Regarding Development FY04-06 Start of Year Budgets

Discussion: Tom I. said that there is no funding process for 2003 and no clear process for 2004, 2005 and 2006. The accrual process is not working, and has created so much uncertainty it takes full-time participation, getting less done on the ground. The Council is talking about doing an accrual true-up process, but doesn't have a clear idea of how to start. Tom I. is proposing that CBFWA develop a recommendation of how to do this process and send it over in a letter to the Council. Tom I. reiterated the actions taken by BPA which led to this financial fiasco (capital and no carryover decisions).

He said we need to:

- go back to obligations based planning, determine the proper allocation among provinces, and send a recommendation to Council;
- build a capital plan that lays out capital projects to fund through the end of the rate case period;
- develop three year spending plans amongst the provinces and highlight what will be defunded in the provinces.

We would then have a regionally approved F/W spending plan for the next three years, and we could focus on the significant issues that fish and wildlife managers should be addressing.

Tom I. reviewed his proposed schedule to accomplish this task, and indicated that, although it is an aggressive schedule, it is doable. This is a proposal for the short-term and the long-term, and working on revamping the program in the process.

ACTION: MMG tasked Tom I. to draft a letter capturing alternatives, identifying the issues discussed here, and memorializing the working relationships that have succeeded. Tom I. will strive to have the draft letter completed by this Friday (4/25) or early the week after. Tom I. will send the draft letter out for and initial MMG review and comments.

ITEM 6: Discussion of an Alternative Modification to CBFWA Operations

Discussion: Tom G. reviewed the background for this recommendation. He indicated there was also a concern that a decision could be made on an agenda that had been revised. Tom's alternative to address this concern would be to send out a decision agenda 10 days ahead of time and follow the same set of rules that the Members have to adhere to in the Charter. This also is subject to the fact that if an MMG member is not comfortable making a decision without Members consent mail approval.

ACTION: MMG directed Tom G. to draft a more concrete example of how the revised decision process would work for MMG to review.

ITEM 7: CBFWA “New Directions” Work Plan

Discussion: Rod asked for concurrence that the Work Plan is ready to go to the Members for consent.

ACTION: MMG moved that the proposal be moved forward for the Members consent mail approval.

ITEM 8: Examples of CBFWA Annual Report Cards

Discussion: Neil provided an example of what a CBFWA report card would look like. He is looking for any comments or suggestions that MMG may have on the reports. Fred said this work product really works well as a website tool. Neil said it will be linked heavily and be part of the website.

ITEM 9: Draft Letter to Council on Wildlife Crediting

Discussion: Frank explained the background and purpose of the letter. BPA remains insistent that anything done for wildlife be linked to crediting, and the Council decided to revive the Wildlife Crediting Subcommittee. In order to get things moving forward again, it was determined that CBFWA would write a letter supporting the Council, describe the two issues (capitalization and crediting), and offer alternatives to resolve these issues. CBFWA wanted to tee up some of the key issues that remain to be resolved including the operational losses, the crediting against secondary losses and the crediting to O&M. Frank asked if there is agreement that this letter or a letter like this should go forward to the Council at this time. Several MMG members expressed concern about the language (to general, etc.).

ACTION: MMG recommended that the interested members work with Frank to revise the language and then send the letter out to the Members for consent mail approval. The capital and crediting committees should be copied on the letter.

ITEM 10: Status of CBFWA Collaborative RM&E Proposal

Discussion: Frank said the results of the last RM&E Policy Level Work Group meeting was to refine the SOW and provide the guidance for the programmatic need at the policy level that this proposal would address. There is a meeting on the 24th of April at CBFWA to continue discussion of this issue. Dave Marmorek is revising the proposal to meet the comments made at the last meeting. We are now down to discussing the budget. CBFWA has told BPA that before we sit down with individual agencies and discuss their actual budget needs, we need to know from BPA what their recommendations will be on funding levels for participation (1/2 FTE or 1 FTE?). Once we get to the point where we are conceptually on the same page we will go out to the entities and see at what level they are willing to participate. This proposal is part of the outcome of the regional RM&E Workshop held at the airport last year and has not changed from our work statement that was approved by our Members and the Council. The report card is one of the strategies under this objective and mitigation measures also need to be tracked and this proposal gives us the tools to track both. It makes us an equal partner in this process. Then we can go forward and incorporate more of wildlife and resident fish needs, but getting it started should focus on anadromous and the BiOp. The critical threshold is to get funded.

ITEM 11: CBFWA Role in River Operations

This was on the agenda at the request of Rob Lothrop, CRITFC. Due to a schedule conflict, Rob was unavailable to discuss this item and it was withdrawn from the agenda.

ITEM 12: Next Meeting

ACTION: The next meeting will be held on **May 22, 2003 in Portland, OR.**