



# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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**FINAL**

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

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

#### Coordinating Agencies

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Upper Columbia United Tribes

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

DATE: February 10, 2009  
TO: Members  
FROM: Brian Lipscomb, CBFWA  
SUBJECT: Action Notes for the February 4, 2009 Members Teleconference

Members Teleconference  
Wednesday, February 4, 2009  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
CBFWA Office, Portland OR (via WebEx)

Meeting support material and WebEx logon are posted at  
[http://www.cbfwa.org/committee\\_main.cfm](http://www.cbfwa.org/committee_main.cfm).

### Final Action Notes

**Attendees:** Brian Lipscomb, Jann Eckman, Kathie Titzler, Neil Ward, Tom Iverson, Ken MacDonald, and Trina Gerlack, CBFWA

**Phone/WebEx:** Chairman Elmer Ward, CTWS; Lynn DuCharme, CSKT; Jim Unsworth, IDFG; Sue Ireland, KTOI; Chris Hunter, MFWP; Jay Hesse, and Dave Statler, NPT; Bruce Crawford, NOAA Fisheries; Tom Rien, ODFW; Carol Perugini, SPT; Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS; and Kyle R. Prior, USRT

**Time Allocation:**

Objective 1. Committee Participation	100%
Objective 2. Technical Review	%
Objective 3. Presentation	%

**ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda**

**Action:** The Members approved the draft agenda as written. No objections.

**ITEM 2: Approve January 21-22, 2009 Members Draft Action Notes**

**Action:** The Members approved the Winter January 21-22, 2009 Members Meeting action notes as final. No objections.

**ITEM 3: Tribal Leadership Forum Update**

**Background:** The Tribal leadership forum around the nation met in Pechanga, California to discuss strategies to consider for the new administration and congress. Brian will provide a synopsis and report from this forum.

**Discussion:** Brian Lipscomb provided an update regarding his attendance at the Tribal leadership forum in Pechanga, California. The conference was well organized and attended. The theme of the conference was to have conversations with Tribal leaders across the nation concerning agenda strategies and developments for the new administration and new congress. Both sides of government provided good and insightful information. Brian summarized the following information pertaining to the Columbia River Basin, science base policy making to inform fisheries management into the future, and climate change.

[Keith Harper](#) was one of the lead attorneys for the Cobell case, which is a large breach of

trust case brought by plaintiffs against the federal government, because of his involvement in that case, he was recruited by President Obama to be his Tribal policy liaison for his campaign and served on the transition team. Keith gave a briefing on the transition team and provided insights on working with President Obama.

The transition process started back in July 2008 and it was organized into four categories:

- 1) The Agency Review teams had conversations with agencies and agency constituents to identify issues that need to be addressed, if the President was elected.
- 2) The Public Relations Committee was formulated to assure that the agency review teams were having conversations with the right people.
- 3) The Policy Groups were formed to take the agency review information and develop policy or potential policy for the new incoming President to implement.
- 4) The Personnel Department identified people that the new incoming President might bring on through the transition to help implement those policies.

Brian Lipscomb senses there are thoughts circulating about policy concerning science and fish and wildlife in the region.

Keith Harper gave the following recommendations for working with new administration:

- Prioritize your issues or someone else will. Look at locals most affected for solutions to address their issues.
- Maintain integrity – “We can disagree without being disagreeable.”
- Build on existing policies that already exist and provide strategies to implement them.

Keith concluded with conversations regarding lobbyist and their appropriate role in government to set up meetings and not to conduct the meetings.

Brian Lipscomb considered, what policies does the President already have that affect us directly?

Brian stated, on December 20, 2008, the President spoke about the search for knowledge truth and greater understanding of world around us, related to his goal for using science. In the principles for stronger Tribal communities, there is a section on fish and wildlife. He articulated that it is our shared duty to uphold the Treaty and court obligations and protect fisheries in a manner that allows Tribal and non-tribal fishing to continue into the future and the path to equitable fishery management is paved with good science. The President supports initiatives to improve the science and our understanding of our nation’s fish stocks. Through improved science, we can better guide decisions on how to protect the health of fish stocks and in turn, insure a better more secure and predictable future for nation’s fisherman.

Brian shared presentation summaries and agenda recommendations from the following Tribal leaders.

James Zorn, Executive Director for [Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission](#) expressed his concerns for managing our natural resources and fisheries and wildlife management.

Jerry Pardilla, Executive Director for [National Tribal Environmental Council](#), provided some of the language incorporated into the draft Lieberman-Warner bill that did not make it out of Congress before the session ended last year. Jerry directed Brian to the draft [Climate Securities Act](#) and [Natural Resource Defense Council](#) website for a timeline. Jerry suspects these issues will come about this year through the new Congress. Brian Lipscomb will track these issues and keep the Members informed. This year will be an active and aggressive year to engage in our issues lead by a Democratic President, Senate, and House of Representatives that will exist for 2-years.

Heather Kendall-Miller, an attorney from the [Native American Rights Fund](#), is representing natives from Alaska in the Yukon that are suffering losses of cultural and fish and wildlife resources caused by climate change.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman of [U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations](#) is involved in conversations for the economic stimulus bill. He wants solutions now. A result of that is a Cooperative letter between the [Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission](#), Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and [Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission](#) articulating their request to insure the allowance or accommodation for spending stimulus dollars coming to Tribes on fish and wildlife management and rights and protection. Brian notified the USRT, UCUT, and others of the opportunities for them to engage in the process. The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission are asking that the part of \$2.9 billion being authorized for economic stimulus in Indian Country go toward fish and wildlife management and Tribal rights protection.

**ITEM 4: Draft "Congressional Delegation and New Administration" Letter**

**Background:** At the January 21-22, 2009 the Members reviewed, revised, and directed the staff to prepare the revised briefing paper to the incoming administration for Members consideration at the February 4, 2009 Members Teleconference.

**Discussion:** Bill Tweit and Nate Pamplin, WDFW were not in attendance, but approved the letter to the President and requested that the briefing paper be signed by Chairman Elmer Ward, CBFWA. The Members in attendance reviewed Lynn DuCharme's, CSKT edits to version 2 in version 3 of the draft briefing paper and provided minor edits that were incorporated by CBFWA staff during the meeting. Sue Ireland, KTOI stated that Tribal Council had reviewed and approved the version 2 draft, but she was comfortable with the changes in the version 3 draft, because they did not change the content of the letter. The USFWS provided abstention language for the letter.

**Action:** The Members approved version 3 of the draft letter with the edits as final for the "Congressional Delegation and New Administration" addressed to President Obama and signed by Chairman Ward.

The Federal agency members of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service), abstain from this letter.

No objections.

**ITEM 5: Update on BPA/NPCC Response to the CBFWA Work Plan and the Development of a Coordinated Basin-wide Monitoring Program**

- Background:**
- **1/26/09** - The member approved work plan and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Coordination proposal was provided to the BPA cc'd to NPCC under Chairman Ward's signature.
  - **1/28/09** – Brian and Ken discussed the proposal in detail focusing on the M&E development with Tony Grover and Greg Delwiche and how the Regional Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E) Review, MYAP, SBMP updates, and BIOP RM&E processes need to be synchronized and informed with appropriate agency and Tribe participation.
  - During this discussion three, ongoing RM&E processes were identified that need to be synchronized to inform the development of a comprehensive M&E framework.
    - Action Agencies, NOAA, BPA, NPCC BiOp RM&E development to meet the BIOP RPA needs
    - The NPCC's Categorical Review for RM&E
    - A focused NOAA, BPA, WDFW, NPCC process which has developed a

draft population monitoring table for the Methow and preliminary draft population monitoring tables for the remaining anadromous basins. It would be advantageous to this effort to have a finished set of tables by the end of February using CBFWA to get there.

- **2/13/09** – NPCC, BPA, NOAA, CRITFC, CBFWA staff will meet to develop a timeline and proposal to synchronize the multiple process now proceeding toward an M&E framework for the basin and build in appropriate agency and tribe participation (CBFWA M&E Workgroup Participation).
- **2/17/09** - The MAG will discuss products from the 2/13/09 meeting and provide feedback.
- **2/20/09** – NPCC, BPA, NOAA, CRITFC, CBFWA will meet to review the timeline and MAG comments, and seek agreement on a path forward.
- **3/4/09** – The process and timeline will be provided to the Members for agreement.

Discussion:

Brian provided an update of recent actions and future meetings with BPA and NPCC and overview of the timeline and issues listed above. Brian met with Greg Delwiche and Tony Grover to clarify CBFWA's work plan and budget requests for FY 2009 coordination funding out of the mainstem systemwide budget and identified items in the work plan that include coordination and development of other deliverables outside the BPA's categorization of coordination. Brian stated that Greg is sending an email to request a separate breakout and CBFWA staff will design a budget for Members consideration to send to Greg Delwiche.

The Coordination Meeting was scheduled to discuss CBFWA's work plan, and monitoring and evaluation, and three ongoing RM&E processes that were identified, and everyone agreed of the need to synch them together to inform the development of a comprehensive M&E framework that overlaps into the work plan discussions on development of updated subbasin management plans and multi-year action plans.

The three RM&E processes are action agencies with five subcommittees to identify current RM&E and assess for adequacy in various H's including predation and address gaps that exist. Some tasks to be completed are the inventory of the current M&E, to rectify the PISCES information that is categorized by work elements and qualify as M&E projects, and engage in the process to assist in developing the population monitoring tables in the basin. Greg, Tony, and Brian agreed to a need for follow-up meeting with CBFWA, BPA, NPCC, NOAA and CRITFC to draft a timeline and proposal to synchronize Accords, multiple processes and reviews. Following that meeting, the MAG will provide their input and bring a proposal and timeline back to the Members for their consideration in March.

Brian has been conversing with Bruce Crawford regarding the new M&E Advisory Group and CBFWA's participation in helping him achieve his assigned tasks related to collecting, identifying, and verifying data for monitoring population tables for the entire basin due at the end of February. Bruce has been working with NOAA and WDFW to draft a population monitoring table for the Methow. The data he used was the NOAA Fisheries draft guidance for monitoring, CSMEP strength and weakness assessments by population, and MPG to identify data gaps and data quality problems, existing monitoring programs to be continued, Accords to address gaps, populations to be addressed by RPAs, and solutions for filling critical monitoring gaps.

The Methow population table is 90% finished and will need to be vetted by the Accord signers for accuracy. Bruce's next step is to do population tables for M&E across the basin. This will be the first assignment for the M&E Advisory Group scheduled for February 23-27, 2009 to verify these tables. Some Members have been assigned as representatives for the M&E Advisory Group.

Dave Statler referenced a memo dated January 7, 2009 "[Update on Project Reviews](#)" by Lynn Palensky, NPCC specifically the RM&E paragraph outlining tentative 2009 processes

their work groups and RM&E leads and questioned who populates the RM&E committees and what the tasks and timeline are to fit into this process.

Brian stated that these are the work groups listed above and outlined earlier in the meeting.

Bruce stated that the fish groups and policy groups are giving him the same assignment to develop the tables by population by MPG that would detail the monitoring. At this point, all these work groups are populated by federal agencies and it is important to have the fish and wildlife agencies and Tribes participating early in the process.

Jay Hesse, NPT requested to attend the February 13 staff brainstorming meeting and the follow-up meeting on February 20 with the CBFWA, BPA, NPCC, NOAA and CRITFC to draft timeline and proposal for Members consideration. Jay expressed his concern for the consequences if the fish and wildlife managers do not participate in the process and supports Bruce's efforts in bringing the fish and wildlife managers into the process.

Bruce Crawford stated it is important that all the right people are involved in the process. The hardest part was to develop the first draft from existing data and he is requesting fish and wildlife managers' review and comments. He is requesting 4 to 8 hours of the fish and wildlife agencies and Tribes' time to review and verify the population tables and provide comments. He has been assigned to complete the tables by the end of February 2009 for the Columbia River Basin.

Brian stated that the Members are contacting him and assigning representatives to participate on the M&E Advisory Group and those representatives will be confirmed at the February 17, 2009 MAG Meeting.

**Action:**

The Members approved the action below as written.

Assign the M&E Advisory Group to verify at their first meeting scheduled for the week 2/23-27/2009, the draft summary tables by population and MPG that summarize the adequacy of the quantity and quality of population monitoring:

- Using the NOAA Fisheries Service Draft Guidance For Monitoring Recovery of Salmon and Steelhead as a standard to evaluate ongoing monitoring programs
- Using CSMEP strength and weakness assessments and other documents, and highlighting current levels of population monitoring by population and MPG;
- Using CSMEP strength and weakness assessments and other documents, highlighting data gaps and data quality problems;
- Identifying existing key monitoring programs that should be continued
- Identifying where Accords have addressed monitoring gaps;
- Identifying potential populations to be addressed by the RPAs;
- Identifying solutions to filling critical monitoring gaps

No objections.

**ITEM 6: Members' Signature Due February 5, 2009 on Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) Letter**

**Background:**

At the Winter Members Meeting, the Members approved sending the CBFWA letter supporting FRIMA reauthorization to the appropriate Senate and House committees. The letter and signature page was sent to the Members on January 28. The individual signatures are due Thursday, February 5.

**Discussion:**

Brian Lipscomb stated that he would be contacting Members to attain missing signatures. The letter should be finalized and sent on Monday, February 9, 2009.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

MAG Teleconference Feb. 17, 2009 (WebEx – 9am-1pm)

**Members March Teleconference**, Wed. Mar 4, 2009 (WebEx - 1-4pm)

NPCC Meetings: Feb. 10-12, 2009, Portland OR and Mar 10-12, 2009, Boise ID - <http://www.nwcouncil.org/>

**CBFWA Business:**

**Request for 2009 CBFWA Committee Designees at Winter Members Meeting**

At the winter meeting of the Members, it is customary for each Member to appoint designees and alternates to serve on the groups and committees of CBFWA for the next year. If you have not sent in your template, please complete it and email to [trina.gerlack@cbfwa.org](mailto:trina.gerlack@cbfwa.org) or fax to the CBFWA office at 503-229-0443.

Please complete the template posted at [http://www.cbfwa.org/Committees/Members/meetings/2008\\_1203/CBFWAdesigneesCommunicationRequestSurvey12Nov2008.doc](http://www.cbfwa.org/Committees/Members/meetings/2008_1203/CBFWAdesigneesCommunicationRequestSurvey12Nov2008.doc).

**Discussion:**

Brian Lipscomb reminded the Members to turn in their completed forms.

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