



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: May 12, 2009
TO: CBFWA Members
FROM: Brian Lipscomb, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the May 6, 2009 Members Teleconference

**Members Teleconference
Wednesday, May 6, 2009
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
CBFWA Office, Portland OR (via WebEx)**

All meeting support material are posted at http://www.cbfwa.org/committee_main.cfm.

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Chairman Elmer Ward, CTWS; Tom Rien, ODFW; Karl Weist, Council; Brian Lipscomb, Jann Eckman, Tom Iverson, Dave Ward, Ken MacDonald, and Trina Gerlack, CBFWA staff

Phone/WebEx: Bill Tweit, WDFW; William Barquin, KTOI; Jim Unsworth, IDFG; Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS; Gary James, CTUIR; Kyle R. Prior, USRT; Phil Roger, CRITFC; Lynn DuCharme, CSKT; Elizabeth Gaar, NOAA Fisheries; Claude Broncho, SBT; Carol Perugini, SPT; and Neil Ward, CBFWA staff

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 April 15, 2009 Members Draft Action Notes

Action: The Members approved the April 15, 2009 Members Teleconference action notes as final. No objections.

ITEM 3: Status of the Resources (SOTR)

Background / Discussion: On April 21, the MAG recommended the 2008 SOTR template be finalized by the Members. The final draft template will be presented to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council)'s Fish and Wildlife Committee for their information and sent to the Members MAG, and technical representatives for data verification to be completed for Members' final review and action at the July 2009 Members meeting. The SOTR website will be active by July 1, 2009. The final template is a 39 page basinwide summary with interactive disk and link to the SOTR website.

A Member requested that the Deadwood Dam data be added to the SOTR summary.

Action: The Members approved the final draft 2008 SOTR template for the presentation to the Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee and the Members committed to tasking their technical staffs to complete the data verification in the SOTR by July 1, 2009. No objections.

ITEM 4: Comments on High Level Indicators (HLIs) to the Council

Background: “The Council is interested in developing a list of high level indicators to communicate its Fish and Wildlife program’s progress to the region’s Governors and to Congress. The Council is requesting public comment on a draft list of seventeen possible indicators in an effort to stimulate discussion and to begin the process of aligning, as appropriate, with existing high level indicators used by others in the region in reporting the status and trends of the region’s natural resources.” Comments are due by April 24, 2009. Review Council’s request at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/hli/Default.htm>.

The Council extended the deadline for HLI comments to May 18, 2009:
<http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/hli/Default.htm>.

Discussion: The MAG and staff prepared the draft comment letter from CBFWA to the Council regarding comments on Council’s HLIs. The Members reviewed the draft and directed staff and Chairman Ward to revise the letter and incorporate their comments and clarify that the Status of the Resources report is an important source for transmitting information and to access and minimize duplicate data requests across the region.

Action: The Members approved the CBFWA comment letter to the Council on High Level Indicators as modified. No objections.

Note: [Final CBFWA comment letter was signed by Chairman Ward and sent to Nancy Leonard at the Council on May 7, 2009.](#)

ITEM 5: CBFWA Work Plan Update

Discussion: Brian gave an overview of the conversations surrounding the current CBFWA work plan and FY09 funding challenges, the magnitude of the work ahead to be accomplished under a possible reduced budget, and provided an update on the developments of the coordinated monitoring proposal. The work identified needs to be coordinated by CBFWA and organized into the three areas of adaptive management; planning, implementation, and evaluation of the F&W Program, beginning with the implementation and development of the multi-year action plans or Accords that represent agreements for work activities for ten years and programmatic efforts that are not in the Accords or MOAs with BPA. The Council has established a mechanism in the Program for any future projects for consideration will be through a multi-year action plan. To secure the Members recommendations and reporting needs they must be captured in the multi-year action plans and articulated in time for the 2010 funding decisions. Brian expects to hear at the May Council Meeting, a roll over of the 2009 decision on all projects not in Accords and through FY 2009 the development of multi-years actions plans for the rest of the Basin. The end product should be a comprehensive F&W Program that is reportable. Additional work is updating the subbasin management plans to include the development and clarification of anadromous fish population objectives across the Basin and how to roll up and be articulated at Bonneville Dam and the mouth of the Columbia river, resident fish construction inundation assessments, assess the wildlife and resident fish operational impacts, and develop monitoring and evaluation approach for wildlife habitat.

The Members expressed concerns surrounding the work requested by the Council and the Action Agencies listed on the [Top Ten Additions for the 2009 SOTR](#). Should CBFWA be doing this work? Brian stated that CBFWA’s role would not be responsible for developing the data and information, but CBFWA would be responsible for facilitation, collecting, and reporting the data that would be added in the 2009 SOTR from other parties, i.e. US v. Oregon and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The Members requested clarity and something in writing to review. Brian and staff will prepare a draft that captures the Members concerns, outlines a clear direction, and is respectful of other entities’ responsibilities and agreements that is relative to this work.

In April, the Members agreed to develop a monitoring framework through a workshop to occur in June or July. Brian presented the details and he recommended that the Members review and provide feedback on the detailed [description of a RM&E strategy for the workshop](#), which is summarized in the timeline and will be reviewed by the RM&E technical staffs and the MAG at the May meetings. Brian Lipscomb gave an overview of the draft [RM&E Strategy timeline](#). Instead of completing the work in a two week workshop, the

new concept is to do significant pre-work to inform sub-regional meetings, which is similar to the VSP monitoring inventory, and assessment meetings that were facilitated by Ken MacDonald, Bruce Crawford, and accomplished by the RM&E technical committees.

Brian outlined the following steps in the timeline, a review and approval process, prepare for pre-work and pre-planning meetings process. Most importantly during the pre-work process for a three week period a table will be completed by the technical groups and from that product five meetings that represent two day workshops will occur in the Lower Columbia, Snake, Upper Columbia, Washington Mid Columbia, Oregon Mid Columbia areas.

Description of products coming out of the pre-work meeting process:

1. As is model
2. To be model
3. Gap assessments
4. Strategies to adjust, confirm, or eliminate current monitoring and confirm and clarify BiOp commitments for monitoring to implement an overall strategy for VSP perimeters by MPG and habitat, hatchery, and hydro.

Finally, peer reviews and recommendations for funding.

On May 6, conversations began with a facilitator advisor to help design and implement the pre-work for the five day workshop and later to summarize the information coming out of the pre-work workshop for review. The final products would be presented at the five day workshop for review, consideration, and consensus on allocating the current BiOp funding to fill in identified gaps in the overall monitoring strategy. Multiple uses of these efforts will be identified through this process.

Brian requested that the Mainstem monitoring experts provide input on the impact of strategies contemplated in this process from a tributary by tributary prospective. Brian stated that conversations have started with Michele DeHart, FPC, CSS, BPA, and USACE to accommodate feedback on strategies for design and implementation in the final strategy.

Putting funding issues aside, Brian requested the Members support and commitment to the work. The Members supported the three step process over one two week workshop process, but wanted to know if there is a plan B? Brian stated if the process becomes too aggressive, a plan would be identified and timeline adjusted as the process goes on. BPA has timing constraints caused by the BiOp, the slippage could move the timeline into March-April 2010 for implementation and contracts. NOAA Fisheries is considering the possibilities of a delay in the process and looking at opportunities to put out the RFPs early for implementation. Brian stated that BPA has estimated amounts of money identified for strategies within the BiOp for monitoring, but they are not developed at a level to get the best return on the design. Brian stated the conversations will continue and he will keep the Members informed.

ITEM 6:

FY 2009 Funding

Background:

- The CBFWA funding memo to Bill Booth will be reviewed for background and current situation regarding funding for Members through the CBFWA-Annual Work Plan (CBFWA-AWP) and the Coordinated System-wide Monitoring and Evaluation Project (CSMEP).
- The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)'s actions to date have not provided replacement funding for CSMEP resulting in elimination of \$950k of funding, additionally BPA has only provided \$1.5M of the \$1.8 requested for funding the CBFWA-AWP. Total impact to the Members from these actions is over \$1.4M.
- At the Members March meeting, you agreed to communicate at the executive level, support for CBFWA's continued coordination of monitoring. Some of the Members have accomplished this, others are pending, and an update will be provided regarding the status of these letters.
- The BPA's actions regarding these issues have not been consistent with Council or CBFWA recommendations.

Discussion: Brian Lipscomb provided an update on the [May 4, 2009 CBFWA funding memo sent to Bill Booth and Rhonda Whiting, and copied to the Council Members, Greg Delwiche, BPA, and CBFWA Members](#). Bill and Rhonda have not provided feedback to Brian at this time. Greg Delwiche and Brian met on May 5 to discuss the RM&E work plan and summary of the CBFWA FY09 funding decisions. Another meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2009 to continue discussions on CBFWA Annual Work Plan, monitoring workload, and budgets to participate in the process. Brian stated, the conversation with Greg Delwiche was positive and he seems open to considering funding restoration to accommodate for the RM&E work plan efforts. The memo does convey the magnitude of work to be completed, budget issues, and Bonneville Power Administration's position that monitoring coordination and data management coordination should be completed at PNAMP rather than CBFWA, which BPA has identified in the FY 2009 draft budget. Brian will have more information to share after the May 7, 2009 meeting with Greg Delwiche, BPA.

Brian provided an update of the Members who have or plan to send letters to BPA regarding this issue and request that all the Members express their concern and support full funding for CBFWA. The CBFWA funding support letters sent to BPA by [NPT](#), [KTOI](#), and [CSKT](#) Members are posted on the CBFWA webpage under the Members April 1, 2009 meeting for your information.

ITEM 7: Summer Members Meeting

Discussion: Brian Lipscomb informed the Members that the 2009 Summer Members Meeting date and location selection has not been scheduled because the meeting logistics are budget dependent. If CBFWA is forced to stay within the \$1.5M budget, there will only be enough money for Brian Lipscomb to travel to update the Members and all meetings will be held at the CBFWA office. The suggested agenda items of discussions for the Summer Members Meeting are the CBFWA work plan, deliverables commitments, policy implications, decisions points, future work developments, and Obama administration updates on climate change. Staff and MAG will continue to work on the details and keep the Members updated.

Upcoming Meetings:

RM&E Committee Meeting – May 14, 2009, Thursday, 12:30-3:30pm at CBFWA office.

Note MAG Meeting Date Change: MAG Teleconference, Monday, May 18, 2009, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Due to scheduling conflicts the MAG will meet on the third Monday of every month from 1-4pm for the remaining of the year.

Members Meeting at CBFWA Office, June 3, 2009, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Council Meeting: May 12-14, 2009 in Walla Walla, WA - Members will present the final draft SOTR template to F&W Committee and Members attendance is requested. <http://www.nwcouncil.org/> and June 9-11, Whitefish, MT and July 14-16, Portland, OR.