

Approved March 2, 2010

SAN JUAN RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Coordination Committee

Conference Call

Nov. 10, 2009

Meeting Summary

Participants

CC Members:

Al Pfister
John Whipple
Ted Kowalski
Tom Pitts
Herb Becker
John Leeper
Cathy Condon
Brent Uilenberg
Adrian Oglesby
Absent
Absent
Absent
Absent

Representing:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
State of New Mexico
State of Colorado
Water Development Interests
Jicarilla Apache Nation
Navajo Nation
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Program Management:

Sharon Whitmore
Scott Durst

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2

Other Interested Parties:

Michelle Shaughnessy
Kim Davis
Katrina Grantz
Mark McKinstry

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
Navajo Nation
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Al Pfister chaired the meeting.

Sept. 10-11, 2009, Meeting Summary – Pitts asked for a couple extra days to review. If he has any comments, he will get them to the Program Office by Friday. Comments will be incorporated and the summary resent to the CC for approval via email.

Water Users Proposal for Hydrology Committee – The CC accepted the proposal to eliminate the HC as a standing committee.

Program Document Revisions – Whitmore reported comments were received from Whipple, Seaholm, Condon, and Becker on the most recent version of Ch. 6 and the new Program Document section on the SJRB Hydrology Model. All comments were incorporated and the revised sections sent back to the CC on Nov. 6. Uilenberg provided additional comments on Ch. 6 on Nov. 9. The group went through Ch. 6

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and Uilenberg's comments and identified a number of revisions, primarily to the Reclamation Responsibilities section. The group discussed the new SJRB Model section. Whipple said it is not appropriate to say the focus of the model is to simulate "daily" flows. He said Gen 3 may be able to do this but the model is a monthly model. Grantz agreed that saying the focus of the model is to simulate daily flows is not quite right. Assessing error monthly and daily time steps are done differently. Whitmore said Seaholm was the commenter who wanted the term "daily" included. Kowalski said he was okay with removing the term. The sentence will be modified to simply say the model simulates flows below Navajo Dam.

The Program Office will make the identified revisions to the two sections and send back out to the CC for another review before approval. For the purposes of this review, the sections will be kept separate from the rest of the Program Document but the Program Office was directed to start incorporating them into the full document and doing quality-checking for accuracy and consistency.

2010 Annual Work Plan Update – Whitmore reported that completion of the items identified at the Sept. 10-11 CC meeting are still in progress. The SOWs for USGS stream gaging, capital projects management, videography, and habitat mapping/temperature monitoring were received. A request was sent to the Principal Investigators for revised SOWs with budgets that reflect 2009 funding levels and to adjust FWS R6 administrative charges to 11%. To allow Reclamation to proceed with contracting, when SOWs are received and complete, they are posted on the website under the *Program Working Documents* link, *Approved FY2010 SJRRIP AWP, in progress*. Whitmore said the CPI for 2010 came in at -1.3%, which amounts to \$2,412,228 in base funding for the SJRRIP. With the approved 2010 expenses, this leaves \$55,682 surplus in budget.

McKinstry reported Reclamation is on schedule with the 2010 contracting. Pitts said the Upper Colorado Program considers the negative CPI to mean a zero increase in their 2010 budget. McKinstry said it means there will be a reduction in funds allocated for 2010. He will talk with Dave Speas to insure the Upper Colorado Program knows a negative CPI translates into a reduction. Oglesby reported on TNC's Habitat Restoration Planning SOW. He said the RERI funds were frozen while NM evaluates all state expenses. He said the SJR project is not dead though and he is continuing to move forward with administrative needs such as environmental compliance. He said the funds could be unfrozen as soon as January.

Annual Funding Legislation Update – Pitts reported that the Senate Bill was introduced by Senator Jeff Bingaman on July 14 with five cosponsors. A hearing was held by the Subcommittee on Water and Power, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on July 23. Only one witness was requested to testify, Reclamation Commissioner Mike Connor, who supported the amendment. Representative John Salazar introduced the House Bill on May 6 with 12 cosponsors. All but one member of the House delegations from Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico cosponsored the bill. Non-federal testimony was provided by Pat Tyrrell, Wyoming State Engineer; Leslie James, Executive Director of Colorado River Energy Distributors Association; and Terry Sullivan, The Nature Conservancy, and all supported passage of HR2288. Questions were raised at the hearing by members of the Subcommittee and written responses were submitted on October 2.

Since then, it was determined by the Congressional Budget Office that the legislation is subject to the PAYGO rule that requires new spending to not add to the federal deficit. New proposals must either be "budget neutral" or offset with savings derived from existing funds. Pitts said there is no way around PAYGO applying to the Upper Colorado River Basin annual funding legislation. This situation has

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serious implications for both recovery programs because important recovery activities such as non-native fish removal, stocking, and program management cannot be funded through the current authorization after 2011. Funding for those activities will need to come from some other yet undetermined source. The ~\$6 million will still be authorized after 2011, but those funds can only be used for operation and maintenance of facilities and monitoring. Program partners are in the process of identifying how much of the \$6 million will be affected and exploring options for offsetting those costs. This will need to be resolved before 2012.

Pfister asked what the implications are for the CC. Pitts said an issue paper has been prepared but they are waiting on word from the Congressional Budget Office that the amount affected is a fraction of the \$6 million. The report will be sent out once this is confirmed.

Biology Committee - McKinstry reported that the BC's last meeting was very productive. They discussed research and information needs and the monitoring plan, in detail. They are looking at updating the monitoring protocols, developing a SOW for potentially doing some monitoring for SJR fish in Lake Powell, and developing an integrated monitoring plan. The week of May 10, 2010, was set for the annual meeting and May 26-27, 2010, for the non-native fish workshop. The next BC meeting is January 13-14.

Scheduling – May 11-13, 2010, was selected for the annual meeting (BC meeting May 11; annual meeting May 12; CC meeting May 13).

The next CC meeting will be set after Pitts finds out more information regarding the annual funding authorization. Agenda items identified include approval of Program Document changes and an annual funding authorization update.