



**San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program
Biology Committee Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2004**

Members Present

Chuck McAda
David Propst
Bill Miller
Ron Bliesner
Tom Wesche
Vincent Lamarra
Paul Holden
Jim Brooks
Mark McKinstry
Tom Nesler

Representing

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Water Development Interests
Navajo Nation
Jicarilla Apache Nation
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Fishery Resources
Bureau of Reclamation
Colorado Division of Wildlife

Others Attending

Brian Hanson
Mike Buntjer
Joann Perea-Richmann
Dale Ryden
Jason Davis

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6, Colorado
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Fishery Resources

Melissa Trammell
Steve Harris
Matthew Anderson
Albert Lapahie
Ernie Teller
Bob Krakow
Sara Gottlieb
Steven Platania
Rob Ashman

National Park Service
Southwestern Water Conservation District
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife Department
Bureau of Indian Affairs-NIIP
Bureau of Indian Affairs-NIIP
University of New Mexico
University of New Mexico
Public Service Company of NM-SJGS

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Committee approved minutes for May 4-6, 2004 and July 13, 2004.

UPDATE OF COORDINATOR POSITION FOR SJRIP (BRIAN HANSON – FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE)

Brian Hanson addressed the committee stating that he'd received both internal and external applicant certificates for this position and was in the process of reviewing them. He will be interviewing those applicants within the next couple of weeks. Some questions arose over whether a GS-13 was needed and whether the Coordinator position should be a Facilitator position and the need for that person to be full time.

FY05 BUDGET REVIEW (CHUCK MCADA AND BIOLOGY COMMITTEE (BC))

The committee reviewed and revised projects in which they felt could be reduced in order to help in the overage of the Statement of Work (SOWs) for FY05. The committee has adjusted their project net reductions by \$74,000 which would not hurt any projects. Most of the committee's concerns are with charges of the Coordinator/Program Assistant and Program Management and the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR). It was stated that in the past the two FWS positions were funded by in kind contributions. The committee agreed that if further reduction is needed after suggested cuts are made, all projects would take up to a 2.5% reduction without further discussion. Further reductions would require consultation among the committee. The committee agreed that this issue needs to be addressed with the Coordination Committee September 10, 2004. All funding adjustments were made in a spreadsheet by Ron Bliesner, which was to be distributed to the Coordination Committee the following day.

Areas that would take cuts are as follows:

Razorback Sucker Augmentation and Monitoring	\$12,000
Holding Facility for Larval Razorback Sucker at UNM	\$9,430
Also proposed was a reduction in the HC budget	\$20,000

Areas where *carry over* funds from 2004 may be used for 2005 budget:

Peer Review	\$23,000
Nonnative Species Monitoring and Control	\$10,000
FWS funds for Program Coordinator and Assistant	\$55,000
FWS and BoR committee member involvement from Program funds rather than inkind funds	\$ need information
Funds remaining from 2004 budget – BoR	\$ need information

Using the above cuts in Biology Committee SOWs, and suggested cuts to the Hydrology Committee and carryover funding, the budget was still about \$20,000 short.

INTEGRATION REPORT UPDATES (BILL MILLER- MILLER ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS, INC.)

In order to complete the final evaluation of the monitoring program \$15,000 additional money would be needed. The committee agreed to this additional funding. This report would include summarizing monitoring, statistical analysis, water temperatures and water quality. Mr. Miller will update the Integration Report and get it out to the BC by mid October.

BUDGET CHANGES FORFY06 (MARK MCKINSTRY- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION BOR)

BoR stated that any new RFPs in the future will be on a year-to-year contract award basis. This has been directed from management high up from BoR. It would be possible

that an Indian Tribe would be able to request a 638 be done for their RFPs. This would allow the work be done within that tribe. It was also mentioned that if a contractor who wants to bid on a project would not be able to write up the SOW for that particular project.

The committee agreed that the Coordination Committee needs to be addressed on the way new RFPs will be handled and the effect it may have on new projects.

- Change the way new RFPs are to be honored and solicited with BoR.
- BC members need to get with their counter parts to address this.
- Address this with their State and Federal counterparts.

POND MANAGEMENT (ALBERT LAPAHIE)

Discussion regarding the fish rearing ponds was that Navajo Nation is not currently working this due to shortage of manpower. The primary job at this time is the fish passage. Paperwork for some of these projects seemsto be with the Navajo Nation. It was also mentioned that facilities for the Navajo Nation staff are needed with computers, phones and other operation cost.

DISCUSSION ON COLORADO'S REQUEST REGARDING ANDERSON REPORT

Chuck indicated that the state of Colorado had requested that the SJRIP consider a report by Rick Anderson as a possible technique to determine future flow recommendations. The upper basin biology committee is also considering this report. They are formally reviewing the report and will provide a formal recommendation as to its merit. Chuck suggested that we wait for their conclusions. Several committee members indicated that they are providing formal comments to Rick. Upper basin comments are due to Rick by the end of September. San Juan members should provide their comments directly to Rick for his consideration so that he can address them as well.

ANIMAS PIKE MINNOW UPDATE

Colorado pikeminnow were stocked in the San Juan River in June 2004, about 100 yards downstream from the mouth of the Animas. Pike minnow wererecaptured in the lower Animas River, about 1 month after stocking. The committee agreed that this was useful information, but would wait to see how the population in that area of the San Juan River expands before incorporating the lower Animas into standard monitoring programs. Paul felt that his seining to monitor YOY stocking would also capture the larger fish if they are available during his sampling time. Chuck indicated that BR would fund at least one more year of the Animas monitoring.

HOGBACK DIVERSION

UNM asked the committee for an additional \$15,000 to complete sampling and to modify the original RFP. The original RFP described a full season of sampling. However, the late start meant that sampling would be split among two years. Steve Platania requested our concurrence with adding \$15 K to the budget to allow fall sampling in 2004 and a full

field season of sampling in 2005. Mr. Platania indicated that he spoke to Melynda Roberts (BoR) who said that additional funds from 2004 are available and could be used. The committee agreed with the modification on the condition that FY04 funds could be used.

Next meetings will be:

Conference Call -- September 30, 2004, 9:00 am – Noon

Meeting in Farmington -- February 15-16, 2004, 8 am – 4 pm

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.