



**HYDROLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING AND WORKSHOP
SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
FEBRUARY 17, 2005**

Member/Alternates Present

Pat Page, Chairman
Steve Cullinan
Chuck Lawler
Ray Alvarado
Ron Bliesner
Brian Westfall
Rick Cox
Steve Harris
Bernadette Tsosie
Pat Turney (Alternate)
John Simon
Aaron Chavez (Alternate)
Bill Miller

Dave Frick
Mike Hamman

Representing

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Keller-Bliesner Engineering (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Keller-Bliesner Engineering (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Southwest Water Commission (Water Development)
Southwest Water Commission (Water Development)
Navajo Nation Dept. of Water Resources
State of New Mexico
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
San Juan Water Commission
Miller Ecological Consultants, Inc. (Southern Ute Indian Tribe)
Jicarilla Apache Nation
Jicarilla Apache Nation

Other Interested Parties

Dave King
Erik Knight
Mike Buntjer
David Campbell
Joann Perea-Richmann
Paul Holden
Steve Ross
Chuck Lawler
Julie Linn

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Services
Jicarilla-Apache Nation, Bio-West Inc.
University of New Mexico, Peer Reviewer
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Catherine Condon	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Tom Wesche	Water Development Interests
Molly Magnuson	New Mexico ISC
Trina Hedrick	Utah Division of Water Resources
Susan Jordan	Jicarilla Apache Nation
Lyle Lewis	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Services
Marilyn Myers	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Services
Melissa Trammell	National Park Service
Ron Ryel	Utah State University
Erin Wilson	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Russell Kaskalla	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, NIIP Central Office

INTRODUCTIONS, REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT SUMMARIES FOR SEPT 15 AND NOV 16, 2004

The Hydrology Committee (HC) will review and provide comments to Joann by March 25, 2005.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEM LOG (ATTACHED)

Item #104 – Bernadette Tsosie reported that site selection for the Shiprock cableway is waiting to be finalized. Item #139 – New projects: 1) City of Farmington is planning on enlarging their reservoir. This won't change the diversion. 2) A new power plant is being proposed and currently going through NEPA process. Bernadette stated that the land hasn't been purchased yet and they are still looking at funding issues. 3) A diversion on Lighter Creek (near Durango) is being considered.

HYDROLOGY WORKSHOP BRIEFING ON MODEL (ATTACHED)

This meeting started with a workshop on the Hydrology Model history, development, and limitations. The Power point presentation has been posted on the SJRIP website.

ONGOING BUDGET AND STATUS REPORT (DAVE KING)

- ❖ The only project started is the updating data sets, used in the modeling, through 2003.
- ❖ Consumptive Use and Loss (CU&L) data for NM to replace the NW assessment data for non-irrigation. Dave King stated that the need to determine how to come to some decision on how to extend the data before the CU&L period of 1980. Dave requested feedback from NMISC on how CU&L data should be extended before CU&L period.
- ❖ Ron Bliesner reported that an associate who worked with Kellner-Bliesner who developed some of the software for data filling procedures for the climate data has departed and taken this information. This resulted in developing some additional utilities to update the climate data.
- ❖ Due to the delay in getting the revised flow recommendations from the Biology Committee.
 - ❖ Minimal funds have been expended this year on Gen 3.
 - ❖ John Simons has charged to the FY05 Operation & Management (O&M) funds for model runs using Generation2 (Gen2).
 - ❖ Comments on the new budget format were discussed by the committee and it was decided that Dave King should go back to the old budget format to include what's been spent on tasks.
 - ❖ Pat Page stated that in the event FY05 SOW tasks (developing/testing revised flow recommendations in Gen 3) are not initiated or delayed this FY, most of the funding could carry over to FY06 because it's been obligated through contracts. The only problem is if there are any delays might be the funding that's designated for the Western Colorado Area Office (John Simons). This money would go back into the program if the HC cannot utilize the funds in other areas. If the funds are not used at the end of the year they would then revert back go into

power revenues. If necessary Pat will try to see if he can obligate these funds through the service agreement they have with the Denver Technical Service Center.

- ❖ In regards to the revised flow recommendations, the size and frequency of flows are discussed. Steve Harris suggested that an alternative flow recommendation scenario be evaluated that uses a minimum 400 +/- cfs release from Navajo rather than 250 cfs. Also, do not specify a certain number of years between big flows but let nature take its course. This option would be compared to other flow recommendation scenarios to assess the impact on high flows, base flows, and other criteria. Steve suggested that looking into two or three different flow scenarios should result in better flow recommendations.

EXTREME CONDITIONS DEFINITION MEMO (RON BLIESNER)

It was suggested the Ron Bliesner take the 1st paragraph from the back page of this memo and move it to the first page before Recommendations. With that change, the HC approved the memo and directed Pat to submit it to the Coordination Committee.

EXTREME CONDITIONS STATUS

Based upon the Extreme Conditions Definition contained in the memo referenced above, the HC concluded that we are no longer in an extreme condition.

DRAFT MEMO ON DEALING WITH STEVENS CREEK AND RED MESA DEPLETIONS (PAT PAGE)

The memo was approved by prior email vote. Dissenting votes include the State of New Mexico, the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. The HC and sent to the Coordination Committee recommending how to account for the Red Mesa Enlargement and Stevens Creek depletions in the model. The HC suggested that these not be included in Gen 2 – as they are small enough in size and would be considered part of the “noise” of the model. The Service did not agree with the HC recommendation and are working on a different method to address these projects by including the Stevens Creek depletions in the minor depletion account and the Red Mesa depletions in the LaPlata River basin fallow land account. Randy Seaholm is preparing a letter to the Service requesting these projects be addressed in that manner.

DRAFT MEMO ON RECOMMENDATION FOR HANDLING SMALL PROJECT DEPLETIONS (PAT PAGE)

This memo addressed the HC recommendations for Handling Small Project Depletions. The statement that “the Service has the discretion to determine what to do with project’s which are greater than 100 acre-feet” needs to be added to this memo. Pat Page will edit and forward to the HC. Dave Campbell advised the HC that the issues being discussed were covered in detail in the Principles for Conduction section 7 Consultations document. Any changes would need to be consistent with that document.

The minor depletions account is being updated by SJRIP Program Coordinator, David Campbell. Ron Bliesner will forward information on several water contract depletions currently in the account to the Program Coordinator to incorporate.

HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS DISCUSSION (JOHN SIMONS)

Since January’s snowfall the mid-forecast projects 1.2M acre feet to flow into Navajo from April through July. Navajo is currently at 1 million acre-feet and only 700,000 of the projected inflow can be stored. It appears that this spring could be the largest Flow Recommendation water release from Navajo at 21 days at 5000 cfs with a three week ramp up and two week ramp down. It is projected that the reservoir would still be high after this release. Things are looking very good for this water year.

NAVAJO DAM UPDATES

Pat Page reported that Reclamation was preparing an Environmental Assessment for Navajo Operations this summer (in Lieu of the delayed EIS). The minimum release for the preferred alternative in the EA would allow a release of 350 cfs. Reclamation would have some flexibility to release higher amounts than the minimum if

hydrological conditions allow. The minimum allowable release is currently at a 250 cfs until April 1, 2005.

Shortage Sharing

Pat Page stated that the Recommendations for San Juan River Administration and Operation for 2005 are still being worked out. The water users are meeting to address outstanding issues with the agreement. It was indicated that 8 of the 10 entities have approved the recommendations at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS WITH BOR

Dave King asked if the HC would have any objections to Eric Knight attending a workshop which BoR will be sponsoring. The HC didn't have any objections to him attending but would like a report on this at the next meeting and if this would be of interest to the HC for next year it should be submitted with the budget.

2005 MEETING/CONFERENCE CALL SCHEDULE

The following meeting/conference call dates were selected (note: all meetings will be in Farmington)

- ❖ February 17th – Meeting
- ❖ April 28th – Conference Call, 9 am – Noon (*this was changed from April 27th*)
- ❖ June 15th – Meeting in Farmington @ Farmington Civic Center
- ❖ August 30th – Conference Call, 9 am - Noon
- ❖ November 15th – Meeting in Farmington @ Farmington Civic Center

ACTION ITEMS

- ❖ Joann Perea-Richmann will update minutes after comments have been received by the HC committee members for September 15, 2004 and November 16, 2004. Then circulate to committee for final comments before putting on web page.
- ❖ Dave King will revise budget spreadsheet using the old format which includes current spending amounts per tasks as well as percentage of completion.
- ❖ David King will incorporate comments for model documentation and get out to the HC.
- ❖ Pat Page will revise wording on the memo for Small Depletions Draft Letter.
- ❖ Pat Page will move 1st paragraph on the back page of Extreme Conditions Definition memo to the front and submit to Coordination Committee.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:00 PM

HYDROLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM LOG
(Updated March 11, 2005)

	<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Meeting/ Origination Date</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Revised Date</i>	<i>Date Completed</i>
4	Add model runs and other information to the permanent hydrology website: http://uc.usbr.gov	7/25/01	Erik Knight	Ongoing		
5	Model modification briefings.	7/25/01	Reclamation and Keller-Bliesner	Ongoing		
12	Any new data or methods incorporated into RiverWare or State Mod will be shared with the Hydrology Committee.	7/25/01	Keller-Bliesner and Reclamation	Ongoing		
34	Gage error analysis discussion: the Hydrology Committee still needs to determine whether big losses are due to daily desegregation. The Committee has the option to re-evaluate losses once the 3 rd Generation model is complete.	11/27/01	Hydrology Committee		Postponed until StateMod analysis is completed	
58	John Whipple will provide a written statement of New Mexico's concerns re: State Mod. Based on that, Ray Alvarado will provide a written description of StateMod. New Mexico's comments have not yet been received. [10/29/02] Still on New Mexico's back burner.	5/7/02	John Whipple Ray Alvarado	6/17/02	Extended check with John Whipple	
104	Bernadette Tsosie will work with USGS to determine a good site for the Shiprock cableway.	8/5/03	Bernadette Tsosie	Ongoing	Ongoing	
105	USGS agreed to give a presentation annually to the Hydrology Committee regarding the effectiveness of the gage readings.	8/5/03	USGS	Ongoing	Annually	
115	New Mexico will present issues associated with forbearance.	10/14/03	John Whipple	Extended	04-05-05	

	<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Meeting/ Origination Date</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Revised Date</i>	<i>Date Completed</i>
124	USBR will conduct a comparison of Riverware versions whenever a new version is available, analyze the results, and recommend to the HC whether and when to incorporate the new version.	1/21/04	Pat Page	Ongoing		
136	Coordinate documentation for depletion differences for Gen 2 & Gen 3 specifically on NM non-Indian.	5-18-04	Ron Bliesner & Dave King	Ongoing	4-5-05	
139	Committee will report any new projects which will be coming up.	5-18-04	Hydrology Committee	Ongoing		
140	Follow-up on (USGS) gage at Archuleta right-of-way AGENDA ITEM	5-18-04	Pat Page	7-13-04	Ongoing	