

June 1, 2009

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

June 4, 2009

Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building, 125 S. State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah

There is a parking garage at 2nd South and State Street, a 3-4 minute walk from the Federal Building. You'll need to sign in with security unless you have a Federal "Smart Card" ID.

**NOTE: As this is the last gathering of the Management Committee before Bob Muth departs for Bozeman, MT, we will have a farewell dinner for Bob Muth at the Market Street Grill (~1/2 mile from the Federal Building) at 6 p.m. on Wednesday evening, June 3. Please RSVP to Angela Kantola ([angela\\_kantola@fws.gov](mailto:angela_kantola@fws.gov)) no later than May 28 if you would like to attend.**

**NOTE: Those who have the lead for the agenda items listed below are expected to post a synopsis of your report on the fws-coloriver list-server or to the Management Committee in advance of the meeting.** The Committee has been somewhat lax about this recently, but it really does make for a better meeting, so we appreciate your compliance.

### **CONVENE: 9:00 a.m.**

1. Introductions, review/modify agenda and time allocations, and appoint a timekeeper (5 min.)  
*- The Committee will consider the agenda, allotted time for each item, and make any necessary additions or revisions.*
2. Approve [April 2, 2009 web conference summary](#) (All) (5 min.) – *Angela Kantola posted the summary to the Recovery Program list-server on April 7, 2009.*
3. Follow-up on [2009 Congressional briefing trip](#) (Pitts, all) (15 min.) – *The Committee will discuss any remaining follow-up activities.*
  - a. Administration's proposal for FY 2010 Program funding
  - b. Additional follow-up (support letters, etc.)
4. Capital costs ceiling and OMID proposal (Uilenberg) (45 min.) – *Reclamation will review their capital cost indexing with the Committee and ask the Program to adopt the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District (OMID) Canal Automation Project as a capital project and budget \$16.5 million to fund its construction. The funding is available under the authorized cost ceiling for the Program recently increased by [P.L. 111-11](#) and the cost indexing methodology approved by the Bureau of Reclamation. An adequate balance would remain to construct a fish screen or barrier at Tusher Wash, complete the 24 Road Hatchery rehabilitation, and leave a contingency fund of ~\$11 million for future unknown capital project needs. Reclamation also recommends the Program immediately work with CRWCD to secure property for a reregulating reservoir for this project and work with local, regional and State entities to develop a cost sharing agreement to fund an escrow account that would be utilized by OMID to pay increased O&M costs. Please see materials from Brent Uilenberg forwarded to the Management Committee by Angela Kantola on May 12, 2009.*

5. [10,825 Alternatives](#) (Pitts) (15 min.) – *See message posted to fws-coloriver listserv by Tom Pitts on June 1 regarding proposed legislation to permanently allocate the Ruedi water on a “non-reimbursable” basis to endangered fish uses.*
6. Proposed amendment to the [Recovery Programs’ legislation](#) and draft Report to Congress (Pitts) (10 min.) – *Representative John Salazar introduced the annual funding legislation to extend the period of annual funding at current levels from FY11 to FY23. [H.R. 2288](#) has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and likely will be referred to the Water and Power Subcommittee. Hopefully, there will be a hearing in June or July.*
7. Extending the Program’s cooperative agreement through 2023 (All) (15 min) – *The Implementation Committee concurred with extending the [Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program cooperative agreement](#). The Program Director has suggested the possibility of holding a signing ceremony in conjunction with a Wyoming wind energy conference in Laramie around 13-14 August which Wyoming is requesting that the Secretary attend. Perhaps the ceremony could be held the afternoon of August 14, either in Laramie or in Denver.*
8. 2009 basin hydrology update (Mohrman) (15 min) – *Update on the season’s hydrological conditions and plans for fish flows.*
9. Section 7 and related issues
  - a. [Summary of depletions](#); update on pending “de minimis” exclusion (Kantola) (5 min) –
    - *Since 1988 (through March 31, 2009), the Service has consulted on 1683 projects with a potential to deplete a total of 2,371,566 af in the Upper Colorado River Basin, of which 2,084,938 af are historic depletions.*
    - *The Service plans to issue a “de minimis” exclusion for future water projects having an average annual depletions of less than 0.1 acre-foot.*
  - b. Update on Aspinall PBO & [EIS](#) (Service, Reclamation) (10 min)

LUNCH: Noon – 1 p.m.

- c. Water Acquisition Committee update on Utah’s Green River flow protection, pending Green River depletions, the Aaron Million project, and proposed Little Snake River project(s) (Mohrman) (20 min) – *The Committee will be briefed on these items, discussed the day before at the Water Acquisition Committee meeting.*
10. Sufficient progress (Service) (10 min) – *The Service has drafted its 2009 sufficient progress memo, requested comments from Program participants by May 18, 2009, and the letter may be final by June 4. The Committee will review actions items in that memo (see attached).*
11. 2009 work plan update (Program staff) (15 min) – *An update will be provided on implementation of several items in the [FY 09 work plan](#): O&M costs for Elkhead releases; nonnative synthesis contract; weir site visit dates; CDOW’s work on modifying upper*

*Yampa River habitat to reduce nonnatives and their Colorado River fish community assessment; Grand Valley hatchery repairs; and serving the Program's scientific library on CWCB's public [Laserfiche web link](#).*

12. Schedule for FY 2010-2011 work plan review and approval (Kantola, 5 min) – *The Program Director's office is working to review and refine the draft FY 2010-2011 scopes of work and develop a recommended technical annual work plan. These will be submitted to the technical committees for review on June 19. Technical committee comments due to the Program Director and the Management Committee by July 15. The Management Committee should meet by mid-August to discuss the recommended work plans and approve projects for the FY 2010-2011 Work Plan (The Implementation Committee may delegate their review and approval to the Management Committee).*
13. Environmental groups' representatives to the Biology Committee and to the Information and Education Committee (Iseman) (10 min.)
14. Updates
  - a. May 19 meeting with Grand Valley water users (*Mohrman, Czapla, Pitts, Uilenberg*) (10 min)
  - b. [Recovery goals](#) revision (Czapla) (10 min)
  - c. Reports status (Kantola/Muth) (5 min.) – *An updated reports list will be provided and the Committee will be alerted as to Biology Committee's actions on recent reports.*
15. Upcoming Management Committee tasks, schedule next meeting (August in Cheyenne) (All) (5 min)
16. Agenda items for September 24 Implementation Committee meeting (All, 5 min) – *The next Implementation Committee meeting has been scheduled for September 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Tri-State's office in Thornton, CO (the Committee having agreed that September is a better time for them to meet than February).*

**ADJOURN by 2:50 p.m.**

### Action Items from the Draft 2009 Sufficient Progress Memo

ACTION ITEM	LEAD	DUE DATE	STATUS
<p>The Service will continue to closely follow the effectiveness of nonnative fish management actions and the responses of the endangered and other native fishes. Data should continue to be reported annually, and necessary changes to nonnative fish management actions should be made in a timely fashion.</p>	<p>FWS, CDOW, UDWR</p>		
<p>A research framework project was initiated in 2005 to conduct additional data analyses to further understand environmental variables and life-history traits influencing the dynamics of Colorado pikeminnow and humpback chub populations. The draft research framework report is behind schedule (originally due in 2007), but is expected in June 2009. Results will be used to refine hypotheses and direct management actions.</p>			
<p>The Flaming Gorge Technical Work Group (Reclamation, the Service, and Western) needs to continue to provide brief updates on current and projected Flaming Gorge operations at Biology Committee meetings.</p>			
<p>The Recovery Program and the Utah's State Engineer's office have been working on mechanisms to protect year-round flows in the Green River; however, this is behind schedule. A schedule and outline of the steps required for both the year-round protection above the Duchesne (to occur in 2009) as well as flow protection below the Duchesne is needed: a) a schedule for the year-round protection down to the Duchesne be</p>			

<p>developed by June 2, the public meeting held by June 21, and the protection finalized by December 2009; and b) by July 1, a schedule outlining steps for year-round protection downstream of the Duchesne to the confluence with the Colorado River.</p>			
<p>The Colorado Division of Wildlife needs to complete the Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan and produce an Upper Yampa River northern pike strategy by May 1, 2009, as promised. The Program will use this strategy and available information to evaluate the need to expand northern pike removal efforts upstream of Hayden to Steamboat Springs.</p>			
<p>Now that the Myton Diversion rehabilitation has been completed, the Program, Service, and Duchesne Work Group will work together to determine if any changes are needed in ongoing monitoring efforts necessary to evaluate the flow recommendations.</p>			
<p>Implementation of Coordinated Reservoir Operations (CROS) provided some peak flow augmentation in 2008; however, constraints on operations due to flooding concerns need further investigation to determine the feasibility of further enhancing CROS benefits.</p>			
<p>Work on Coordinated Facilities Operations Project (CFOPS) will resume and is expected to be completed in 2010, but a specific schedule needs to be developed by October 1, 2009.</p>			
<p>Close coordination will be maintained by meeting twice a year with Grand Valley water users and conducting conference calls as needed to discuss</p>			

<p>river conditions prior to the weekly Historic User Pool calls. The focus should be on taking full advantage of water savings brought about by operation of the Grand Valley Water Management project for late summer flow augmentation.</p>			
<p>The goal of the 10,825 Project is to have agreements signed with the Service prior to December 2009 committing east slope and west slope water users to permanent sources of Ruedi replacement water, as required by the Colorado River programmatic biological opinion.</p>			