

DRAFT

Water Acquisition Committee

Summary Meeting Notes

February 7, 2000

The Water Acquisition Committee met February 7 via conference call and reviewed the 2001 program Guidance and Proposed RIPRAP changes. Present on the call were George Smith, Chairman; Bob Norman, Vice Chairman; John Shields; Jerry Olds Randy Seaholm; Sue Uppendahl; Bob Muth; Henry Maddux; Brent Uilenberg; Gerry Roehm and Ray Tenney .

1. Minutes of the December 13, 1999 meeting: Bob Norman pointed out that Reclamation had not agreed to fund Joe Lyons participation in the Geomorphology peer review panel as stated in the notes. Bob made the clarification that Reclamation would provide funding for Joe to review the Aspinnall flow recombination report because it is closely tied to a Reclamation project. The WAC discussed the issue and agreed that Recovery Program would need to use funding set aside under the Geomorphology panel Scope of Work to fund Joe's future reviews.

2. WAC Comments on the 2001 Program Guidance and Proposed RIPRAP Changes are summarized below.

FY 2001 Program Guidance

Section I Page 1 CAP 25: Additional funds will be needed to complete Phase 2. The consultant will have an estimate of Phase 1 carryover and Phase 2 needs by February 17 and this information will be presented at the upcoming Management Committee meeting.

Section I Page 2 New Starts: MONITORING SEDIMENT MOVEMENT AND TEMPERATURE IN SUBSTRATES OF THE COLORADO AND GREEN RIVER

The Rational/Problem Statement: Delete reference to the 18-mile reach and rewrite as follows;

The Recovery Program has implemented a flow enhancement project on the Colorado River known as the Coordinated Reservoir Operations. The objective of the Coordinated Reservoir Operations project is to coordinate releases from upstream water storage reservoirs to enhance peak flows in the 15-mile reach near Grand Junction to maintain active, complex channel characteristics and clean sediments from cobble substrates. These releases will also pass through the 18-mile reach and combined with future release from the Aspinnall Unit, may also have significant benefits on the habitat in the 18-mile reach and beyond. Currently it is difficult to evaluate the benefits of this program in terms of biological response of adult endangered fish populations because it takes several years for enhanced production of young to show up in adult populations. Physical monitoring programs are complicated by the effects of local storms on sedimentation and the staff resources required to conduct repeated surveys in a timely fashion to evaluate effects of

enhanced peak flows. What is needed is a methodology that continuously monitors sedimentation and erosion response to flow enhancement at a variety of complex habitat types (riffles, runs, side channels, and river margin sediment deposits). Continuous sediment deposition and erosion methodologies were successfully tested on the Green River during the 1999 flow year.

Several transcription errors were identified in the budget section and the budget should be modified as shown below.

FY 2001 Equipment and Installation

Capital Costs		
Sensors	20@ \$2,000 ea.	\$40,000
Data Loggers	4@ \$1,250 ea.	5,000
Multiplexers	4@ \$ 550 ea.	2,200
Relay Modules	4@ \$ 200 ea.	800
Batteries	8@ \$ 40 ea.	320
Supplies		<u>2,000</u>
Total Capital Costs		\$50,320

EXPLANATION OF PROGRAM DIRECTOR’S RECOMMENDED RIPRAP CHANGES

Major changes in Program priorities/direction:

Page 1

The major change proposed to the RIPRAP this year is an overhaul of the instream flow protection sections of the Yampa and Colorado river action plans to reflect the addition of a programmatic biological opinion (PBO) process. Fairly major overhauls were made to the instream flow section of the Yampa and Colorado, ~~and Gunnison~~ river action plans, so instead of a marked-up copy, we have provided you with a completely revised version of those sections of the RIPRAP.

We have not proposed any other major changes in direction, however pending negotiations on the Gunnison River other changes may be needed and will be addressed in future revision to the RIPRAP. The Program should continue to focus on completing tasks already identified, especially flood plain restoration, fish passage construction, and nonnative fish control.

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Add to the end of the first paragraph: “In most cases, this process has lacked support and thus proven to have limited use in the Recovery Program. Therefore, the Program adopted a programmatic biological opinion (PBO) approach on the Colorado River and will apply a similar approach to other ~~unprotected~~ rivers (such as the Yampa and Gunnison). Program participants anticipate that this process will prove effective in protecting instream flows for the endangered fishes. The Program and the Colorado Water Conservation Board will reevaluate the need for instream flow filings five years after each PBO is in place.”

Delete the entire second paragraph.

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As a result of concerns expressed by the Service and other Program participants, the CWCB withdrew the base flow and recovery flow instream flow filings on the Colorado and Yampa rivers. With the recent approval of the 15-Mile Reach PBO, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife staff have been instructed to develop new flow recommendations. ~~because the sentiment is that~~ The current methodology for instream flow filings **may not apply for warm water rivers.** ~~to support the Recovery Program is out of date and may not be needed.~~ Based upon these developments, the Management Committee has agreed that the need for further instream flow filings will be evaluated every 5 years.

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Make similar changes as outline above (page 14) as applied to the Yampa River.

Page 16-17 WAC Change In Bold CAPS

A variety of recovery actions are planned for the Colorado River. Numerous approaches are being taken to restore flows in the 15-mile reach to levels recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bureau of Reclamation has ~~been providing up to 31,650 acre feet of water from Ruedi Reservoir since 1990. When current Round II water sales contracts from Ruedi Reservoir are completed, Reclamation and the State of Colorado have agreed to develop an agreement addressing the reservoir's remaining uncommitted water, including providing a portion thereof for endangered fish.~~ made available 5,000 acre-feet annually plus an additional 5,000 acre-feet four out of five years from Ruedi Reservoir to support flow augmentation in the 15-mile reach during July, August and September. In addition, WATER MADE AVAILABLE by the leases for release of 10,825 acre-feet/year of water from Ruedi Reservoir and the permanent dedication of 10,825 acre-feet/year from Colorado Water Division Number 5 facilities will be delivered and protected to the 15-mile reach during the late summer period. These agreements will accommodate environmental commitments agreed to by Reclamation in the Environmental Impact Statement on Round II sales and any constraints of the reservoir's authorizing legislation. Concerns about repayment of Ruedi construction costs to Reclamation remain an issue to be resolved. Additional water is being provided through an MOU with the Colorado River Water Conservation District for delivery of up to 6,000 acre feet of water from Wolford Mountain Reservoir.

Page by Page Comments on Proposed RIPRAP Changes

Page 30 I.A.1.d: Provide hydrology support and evaluate flow augmentation alternatives; WHO should be changed to CWCB.

Page 31 III.A.1.a.(1): Place an X in 00 column.

Page 32 add an item: I.D.1.e. Assess Wyoming current and future water needs and place an X in 00 column.

Page 35 I.B.: Change Cwcb to all Caps

General Comments on the RIPRAP

In the review of the RIPRAP, Brent Uilenberg asked if the dates for the completion of the municipal contract for Green Mountain water and the contract for Ruedi releases were reasonable. Malcolm Wilson assured the WAC that the dates were achievable.

WAC consideration of Tom Pitts comments regarding PBO tasks to be included in the RIPRAP

Item 2.0 Definition of Existing and Calculation of New Depletions. The WAC reviewed Appendix B of the PBO and found no reference that accounting be provided every other odd year beginning January 1, 2001. The accounting is to be completed every five years beginning in 2005. Tasks have been added to RIPRAP to develop accounting methodologies and to begin accounting and reporting 5 years after PBO is issued. See RIPRAP page 37I.A.3.b.(3)

Item 3.1 Summer Flow Augmentation “Protection of Green Mountain Management Project”. The WAC suggested that the title be changed to: “Protection of Green Mountain Historic Users Pool Surplus Water”. Malcolm Wilson suggested several other changes to this section and will redraft the section and E-mail changes to Tom Pitts.