

June 19, 2008

**Information & Education Committee Conference Call
June 19, 2008**

Participants: Tom Chart, Kara Lamb, Angela Kantola, Debbie Felker, Randy Hampton, Leslie James, Betsy Blakeslee, John Reber

CONVENE: 10:00 a.m.

1. **Grand Valley Projects Dedication** – 107 people have RSVP'd that they'll attend the program, 64 for the tour (Reclamation has arranged for two, 40-passenger school buses to provide transportation). Program speakers will be Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett, Congressman John Salazar, Reclamation Deputy Commissioner Kris Polly, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-Prairie Region Deputy Regional Director Jay Slack, Colorado Water Conservation Board Director Jennifer Gimbel and Greg Trainor, Utility and Streets Director for the City of Grand Junction (invited). John Shields will be the Master of Ceremonies. Debbie is preparing talking points so that the presenters address different aspects. The tour will include the Redlands fish screen and passage and a restored floodplain wetland at the Grand Valley Audubon Society's Lucy Ferril Ela Wildlife Sanctuary. Debbie and Justyn are working on a news media advisory and news release. Justyn is handling all of the on-site details, including producing materials for an informational exhibit, coordinating rental of the tent, chairs, etc., and producing a printed program. Leslie suggested inviting WAPA folks (Tim Meeks and Brad Warren).
2. **Discussion of the proposed scope of work re: support for a bounty program related to illicit fish stocking in Utah.** The Biology Committee discussed this on June 13: "The Committee supported the concept, but realized that more review and discussion is needed, including with agency staff with more experience with Operation Game Thief. The rewards definitely need to be commensurate with fines. This proposal should be discussed at the next Western Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting and at the Colorado Fish and Wildlife Council. The Biology Committee generally felt the States should take the lead on this, and that the Recovery Program should not be highlighted from a public relations standpoint."

Randy agreed these are primarily State issues and noted Colorado has had 19 known illegal stocking incidents, 11 of which were in the Colorado River Basin. Colorado is looking at changes in legislation and statutes and some I&E efforts, also. State I&E efforts may have a more direct benefit. He said he doesn't know if the Recovery Program needs to help at this point with a reward or not. Leslie noted again that the Management Committee needs to discuss whether authorizing legislation supports this use of power revenues. Randy suggested that we need to think comprehensively through what will reduce illicit introductions and how the Recovery Program should be involved in that. E.g., proactive aquatic management plans so public knows what State is trying to achieve (and how illicit introductions interfere with that). Ultimately, larger rewards probably are good, but we still need to consider this more comprehensively. Angela agreed. Tom concurred, saying this is basically where the BC ended

up, with more questions than answers generated. He said there are several angles to this issue, some of which need to be worked into our recommendations document below (e.g., proactive aquatic management plans). Tom said the Program recognizes what States are struggling with; the program director's office take on this proposed scope of work was simply to "put our money where our mouth is." To get a conviction, you have to get someone who knows someone to turn them in.

3. **Discussion of nonnative fish management proposed outreach recommendations from the Biology Committee.** Tom said the recommendations generated during several nonnative fish management workshops have been under discussion by the Nonnative Fish Subcommittee and the Biology Committee. Last week the Biology Committee focused most of its discussion on making the list of recommendations and associated action items as complete as possible. As a next step, the Biology Committee will likely try to prioritize these items. The recommendations are categorized in four areas: prevention, research, mechanical control, and policy items, with I&E items found under prevention and policy. (See notes on table of recommendations.)

Betsy said there are libraries in Craig, Hayden, and Steamboat Springs that offer summer reading programs for children. She is willing to work with the libraries to set up a program to read the Phoebe and Chub book (then we could leave bookmarks, etc.). Angela suggested an idea to keep in mind for the future: since schools place some emphasis on conflict management, we could use this as an opportunity to talk about the Recovery Program as a real-world example (we could promote this idea with Mesa State University, as well as public schools). Leslie James agreed, saying that Northern Arizona University did this with a special Native American student program where they invited representatives from Glen Canyon w different views come and show how they work together. Betsy said the magnets, etc., are a great tool at Carpenter Ranch and kids visiting know the fish by the time they leave.

>Debbie and Tom will work on draft key messages; Deb will talk to Mark and Tom will talk to members of the Nonnative Fish Subcommittee to ask for participants to serve on the subcommittee; Kara will then coordinate getting the subcommittee members together..

ADJOURN: 11:30 a.m.