

Information and Education Committee Conference Call September 21, 2009 – 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Summary

Participants: Kara Lamb, Justyn Hock, Debbie Felker, John Shields, Martha Moore, Joann Perea-Richmann, Mark Hadley, Tom Chart, and Angela Kantola. Matt Kales and Randy Hampton were unable to join the call.

1. I&E Update – Debbie reviewed current I&E activities:

- The Program's Cooperative Agreement was extended to 2023 in August, at which time a news release was issued.
- Tom Chart is the new Program Director. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a news release to announce this today.
- The House Water and Power Subcommittee scheduled a hearing for 2 p.m., September 22, 2009, on HR 2288, the bill to extend the annual funding of the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin recovery programs at current levels through 2023. Non-federal program partners are providing letters of support.
- Working with the San Juan River Program to produce the newsletter with the goal of distributing it by the end of November.
- The Implementation Committee meets Thursday, September 24, 2009, at Tri-State in Westminster. As part of its agenda, the committee will approve the 2010-2011 work plans.

Follow-up from I & E Committee Conference Call held June 30, 2009

- Recovery Program materials are being provided at Aspinall and Flaming Gorge work group meetings.
- Flaming Gorge Visitor Center offers guided (not self-guided) tours. Debbie will follow-up with Administrator Roxann Reid to ask what types of educational materials the Recovery Program can provide.
- Calendar – Debbie did not have a chance to explore the costs to produce a calendar as a possible new outreach item. The Committee agreed to defer the discussion of outreach materials until the in-person meeting early next year. At that time, they can review current materials and associated costs and then determine if the program needs additional or replacement items.

Aquarium Projects

Clifton Sanitation near Grand Junction, Colorado, asked the Recovery Program to help establish an educational exhibit with endangered fish at its new wastewater treatment facility. Kathleen Tadvick from the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) is providing assistance to help make this happen. Clifton Sanitation is using the aquarium that was removed from Colorado River State Park in Fruita and the Recovery Program is providing educational materials. The Grand Valley Endangered Fish Facility is providing razorback suckers. CDOW's J.W. Mumma Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility will provide bonytail in the future. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working to issue the permit to display endangered fish. Clifton Sanitation will hold an open house for its clients on October 6.

Denver Zoo – CDOW is working with the zoo to finalize details. A decision regarding whether or not the project will go forward is expected in December.

Southern Ute Tribe – The Recovery Program received a request from Steve Whitehead with the Southern Ute Tribe who is interested in setting up a classroom program for students to raise endangered Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker at the Tribe's Montessori Academy. Debbie will work with Sharon and Joann from the San Juan Program and CDOW to determine if we can help with this project.

Exhibits

The Recovery Program will provide materials at the **Wyoming Water Association's** annual meeting to be held October 28-30, in Sheridan, Wyoming.

The Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Basin recovery programs will share an exhibit at the **Colorado River Water Users Association** Annual meeting to be held December 9-11, 2009, in Las Vegas, and at the **Colorado Water Congress** Annual Convention to be held January 27-29, 2010, in Denver.

2. Roundtable Discussion/Project Updates

- a. Martha mentioned that the River District purchased land for the re-regulation reservoir for the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District (OMID) efficiency project that will provide water to benefit the endangered fishes. More than \$281,000 has been provided for the environmental compliance work on the 10,825 which will enable NEPA work to begin. The mock-up for interpretive signs at Elkhead Reservoir will be ready for review in the near future.
- b. Kara reviewed the history behind the 10,825 project and the current environmental review. The kick-off public scoping meeting will be held in mid-October (they're anticipating doing an environmental assessment). Kara anticipates concern from Basalt area residents regarding releases from Ruedi Reservoir since this summer, most of the Recovery Program's releases were made in August (resulting in average flows >500cfs in the Fryngpan River and dropping reservoir level below Aspen Yacht Club boat ramp.). Kara recommends working on a strong public message to remind folks what a win-win situation the Recovery Program is overall. Kara asked

- about having a Recovery Program booth at the public scoping meetings (one in Granby and one in Carbondale). The Committee thought this was a good idea and noted that we could provide a banner stand and program materials. Martha said the River District can help. She and Kara will try to coordinate dates so that a River District representative can attend (maybe Dan Birch).
- c. Justyn said Reclamation hosted Wisconsin water interests last week and showed them the fish passage at Price-Stubb diversion dam. Justyn said they'll be doing some public meetings on OMID, but this may not be a full-blown NEPA process.
 - d. Mark Hadley said he was very pleased with the media coverage that the Program's nonnative fish management news release got in Utah this year (Deseret News, AP, and more). He said these articles help people understand how the Program helps the state of Utah.
 - e. John Shields has been working on Pat Tyrrell's testimony for the hearing tomorrow and the support letters have been pouring in. John noted that he anticipates Program participants will receive more questions regarding the potential impacts of the Aaron Million project on the endangered fishes. Kara suggested that our responses should be consistent with the comments submitted by the Service. The Washington D.C. briefing trip is scheduled for March 17-22, 2010. The Congressional appreciation lunch will be held March 19.
 - f. Joann said she's working with Debbie to produce the newsletter. She is also looking for ideas for a less-expensive educational item (e.g., bookmarks) for the San Juan Program to give out at free fishing days and related events for children (age range from 5 to 17).
3. Schedule next meeting: Thursday, March 4, 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Denver near DIA.