

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

June 30, 2000

Bureau of Reclamation
Grand Junction, Colorado

Participants: Chris Treese, Henry Maddux, Jone Wright, Kara Lamb, Geoff Tischbein, John Shields, Debbie Felker

1. Program Director's Update – Henry Maddux gave an update on several significant Program issues:

A. Long-term funding: The long-term funding bill has moved through both the House and Senate Committees and will be presented for vote in July. The legislation is expected to pass.

B. Recovery goals: Draft goals have been presented to the Management Committee for review by July 10. A special Implementation Committee will be held July 17 in Salt Lake City for the sole purpose of reviewing and providing input on the goals. The goals will be published in the *Federal Register* with a 30-day period for public comment.

C. Yampa Management Plan and PBO: A Yampa Management Partnership meeting will be held Aug. 17 and 18 in Craig to address issues related to this project, including where 7,000 acre-feet of water will come from and nonnative fish control. The Partnership continues to take the lead on public announcement/meetings related to the plan. However, the I&E Committee believes it is important for the Recovery Program to begin to take an active role with other public relations issues including fact sheets and news releases. This will ensure a coordinated, consistent message to key audiences.

D. Green River and Lower Colorado River flow recommendations: Recommendations are completed and undergoing peer review and review by the Biology Committee. The recommendations affect releases from the Aspinnall Unit. Chris Treese recommended that Debbie contact Kathleen Klein, Manager of the Upper Gunnison District, to coordinate public information efforts related to this project.

2. I&E Update: Debbie Felker provided an update of key I&E activities (see attachment A).

3. Committee Reports:

A. John Shields led a discussion regarding the "plumbing map." This project involves a printed map and online version of a graphic that shows the diversion structures and Recovery Program capital projects on the Colorado River and its tributaries. Given the magnitude of the project, Henry recommended, and the Committee approved, hiring an outside contractor to move this project forward. Debbie will solicit bids. John also reported that he will give a powerpoint presentation about the Recovery Program to the

Green River Basin Advisory Group at its meeting on July 11. He thanked Debbie for faxing news articles in a timely manner.

B. Jone Wright gave an update on Grand Valley Facilities Operations. The construction contract will be awarded next month for the Grand Valley Water Management. A fish screen has been approved for construction at GVIC. The Bureau estimates awarding a contract by January 2001. Price Stubbs is still on hold pending a decision from FERC. A draft environmental assessment will be released this summer for the Grand Valley Project Diversion Dam fish passage. The final environmental assessment is expected by December 2000.

C. Kara Lamb gave an update on two public meetings held in May in Basalt to address releases from Ruedi Reservoir. To improve communication with anglers in the area, Kara established an e-mail list to notify anglers when flow levels change by a certain percentage. She will add the I&E Committee members to this list.

D. Geoff Tischbein reported that the Colorado Division of Wildlife is busy installing a screen in a privately-owned pond in the Grand Valley that has been identified as contributing to the nonnative fish problem. This has been a positive program with landowners because it also ensures that the fish they want to keep in their ponds remain in them. The CDOW has also posted new endangered fish identification signs along the river. Geoff will be onsite to videotape and photograph the bonytail stocking on July 13. He will make these visuals available to the Recovery Program.

E. Chris Treese had no additional report from water users.

4. Scopes of Work Review. The Committee approved the umbrella PIP scope of work (PIP 12) with the following changes: On the budget page (PIP 12, page 10) change the words "Plumbing Map" publication to "Plumbing Map" development and increase the budget line item from \$3,000 to \$6,000 and increase the total I&E Budget request to \$48,000.

The Committee also discussed repeating the Public Attitude Survey that was completed in 1995 by Colorado State University. Debbie reported that the cost to redo the survey as it had been done previously, would be \$35,000 to \$40,000. The Committee asked Debbie to research alternatives to secure information the Program would want from the survey. The Committee will not ask for funding for this project in FY 2001.

All other SOW were approved as submitted with the exception of the unsolicited SOW for Utah's Project WILD. The Committee gave preliminary approval to recommending this SOW be funded, pending answers to some questions not addressed in the SOW. Debbie will followup with Utah to gain more information before this goes forward to Management Committee for final approval.

The I&E planning calendars were reviewed and additional dates provided for inclusion. The calendars will be posted on the Program's website for everyone's use and will be

updated quarterly.

5. Interpretive Exhibits – Kathy Holley from the Recovery Program’s Grand Junction Field Office gave a report identifying preliminary research she has made related to partnering with private and government organizations to develop interpretive exhibits in targeted communities. Debbie will prepare a draft SOW to address this project and the requested \$120,000 total budget (\$30,000 per year over four years). Kathy Holley will develop a notebook detailing various options and cost estimates for interpretive displays such as permanent signs, live aquariums, window displays, etc.
6. I&E Tactics – The Committee discussed the outreach plan for announcing completion of the draft Recovery Goals. The Committee also reviewed the draft news release announcing the forthcoming bonytail stocking in Colorado.
7. Grand Valley Video – The Committee reviewed and approved the Grand Valley video. Copies will be made and distributed to a targeted list. The video will be shown at the next Implementation and Management Committees. It is available to other committees upon request.
8. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held October 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Denver. Location to be announced.