

CR/FY-02 UCRRIC
Mail Stop 65115

Memorandum

To: Implementation Committee
Management Committee, Consultants, and Interested Parties
Meeting Attendees

From: Assistant Director, Upper Colorado River Recovery Implementation Program

Subject: Draft May 29, 2002, Recovery Implementation Committee Conference Call
Summary

Attached are the draft action and assignment summary and the general meeting summary from the recent Implementation Committee conference call. Please review these documents and contact me (303/969-7322, ext. 221) if you think any changes are necessary.

Attachment

- Summary -

Actions and Assignments
Recovery Implementation Committee–May 29 2002

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

1. Agreed to proceed with seeking extension of capital project construction period.
2. Retained the conference call previously scheduled for July 23 in order to discuss the timeline to recovery for razorback sucker and bonytail.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Angela Kantola will provide a clean version of the extension briefing paper and language to Sherm Hoskins. (*Done.*)
2. Sherm Hoskins will get these documents directly to Congressman Hansen and his staff with a short transmittal letter.
3. John Shields will draft the transmittal letter on Recovery Program letterhead for signature by Greg Walcher, Bob Morgan, and Pat Tyrell. Pat will sign it and fax to Greg, Greg will sign it and fax it to Bob Morgan.
4. Program participants will let their congressional delegations know that this is on the way.
5. Tom Pitts will contact the San Juan River Recovery Program folks.
6. Before the June 12-13 Biology Committee, the Program Director's office will provide a summary of razorback sucker and bonytail status and the steps and timeline to recovery. The Implementation Committee will discuss this on their July conference call (it will go through Biology and Management committees first).

- Summary -
May 29, 2002, Implementation Committee Conference Call
Denver, Colorado

CONVENE: 2:30 p.m.

1. Discussion of proposed extension of implementation period for capital projects - Bob Muth summarized the analysis of the effect of the proposed extension on achieving recovery. Bob said he has concluded that there is no risk of impeding progress to recovery by extending the capital construction deadline from 2005 to 2008.

Greg Walcher said that when we agreed to extend the Recovery Program to 2013, he understood the concept was that the fish would be recovered by then. Although this may not be directly connected to extension of the capital construction deadline, Greg would like the Committee to discuss a more about much more aggressive timeline for delisting razorback and bonytail. Bob Muth said the draft recovery goals require self-sustaining populations of each species. Razorback sucker and bonytail must be reestablished through stocking, but for stocked fish to be “counted” in a self-sustaining population, their progeny must recruit to adulthood and subsequently reproduce. Greg said he understands that, but doesn’t believe it’s adequate.

The Committee agreed to go ahead and ask Congress to extend the capital projects construction deadline from 2005 to 2008. We’ll start with the House, and will keep a close eye as the proposed amendment progresses, lest anyone propose extraneous or problematic language. Colorado, Utah and Wyoming will forward the current draft of the briefing document and proposed amendment. >Angela Kantola will provide a clean version of those documents to Sherm Hoskins right after the call. >Sherm Hoskins will get it directly to Congressman Hansen and his staff with a short transmittal letter which >John Shields will immediately draft on Recovery Program letterhead for signature by Greg Walcher, Bob Morgan, and Pat Tyrell. >Pat will sign it and fax to Greg, Greg will sign it and fax it to Bob Morgan. Everyone will let their congressional delegations know that this is on the way. >Tom Pitts will contact the San Juan River Recovery Program folks.

The Committee retained their previously scheduled conference call at 2:30 p.m. on July 23 to discuss how we could speed up the timeline for delisting razorback suckers and bonytail. >Before the June 12-13 Biology Committee, the Program Director’s office will provide a summary of razorback sucker and bonytail status and the steps and timeline to recovery. The Implementation Committee will discuss this on their July conference call (it will go through Biology and Management committees first).

3. Other items: Greg said he received a response to his letter to Environmental Defense. ED said they didn’t get the NFWF funds, but they got matching funds and are spending those on other ED work. Sherm Hoskins said Utah is working out an agreement between

Thayne and the Canal Company. Both would like to increase the dam height by about 6" to create more head. Brent Uilenberg said he's glad things are working out, but said we would need to discuss raising the dam because it could create a fish passage problem.

ADJOURN: 3:05 p.m.

Attachment 1 - Participants
Colorado River Recovery Implementation Committee Conference Call, May 29, 2002

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Bob McCue for Ralph Morgenweck, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Chairman)
Carol DeAngelis for Rick Gold, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Greg Walcher, Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Tom Pitts, Upper Basin Water Users
Pat Tyrrell, Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Bob Morgan, Utah Department of Natural Resources
John Reber for Karen Wade, National Park Service
Program Director Bob Muth, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (nonvoting)

OTHERS:

Brent Uilenberg, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John Shields, Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Sherm Hoskins and Robert King, Utah Department of Natural Resources
Dave Mazour, Colorado River Energy Distributor's Association
Tom Blickensderfer, Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Angela Kantola, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Recovery Program