

CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
Colorado River Management Committee
October 9, 2002

Participants: See Attachment 1

Assignments are highlighted in the text and listed at the end of the summary.

CONVENE - 9:00 a.m.

Agenda:

1. Per assignments in the previous meeting summary, Angela Kantola noted that Chuck McAda plans to have a revised *Flow Recommendations to Benefit Endangered Fishes in the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers* back to the Biology Committee by January 31, 2003.
2. Ruedi Reservoir repayment issue - Brent Uilenberg reported that he met with Mary Anne Bach and Brian Persons yesterday and cleared up some areas of confusion regarding credit for water provided to the Recovery Program. Reclamation hopes to respond to John Shields' letter within the next few days. John Shields raised the issue of the biological opinion on Round II water sales. Brent said he hadn't read that opinion before the last Management Committee meeting and agreed that it is clear on the point that only O&M (not capital) costs would be reimbursed by the Program. The PBO has precedence, but is silent on this issue. Brent noted that the Program has not paid O&M costs for Ruedi water in the past few years. Brent said he invited Brian Persons to come to the Implementation Committee next week if he has additional information at that point regarding whether or not Reclamation will be asking for credit for O&M and capital costs of Ruedi water provided for the endangered fish. George Smith posted a chronology of significant events in providing water for the fish and invited Committee members to submit comments on that draft.
3. FY 2003 work plan - Bob Muth said the scopes of work were revised and posted and he believes most now provide the information requested; however, a few of the scopes still need additional revision. The Committee reviewed the scopes of work. The Committee wants more time to review 122 (and will submit comments by Friday). Scopes of work 110, 98b, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128a, 131, 132, 133 need a bit more work (as outlined in the comments column of the now-revised budget table). Revisions for these scopes of work will be posted to the listserver by this Friday morning.
4. Salvaging fish from the GVIC and Grand Valley Water Project canal - Bob Muth said that this year's low flows greatly increased the likelihood of entrainment of fish in canals, and that the Service has proposed a salvage effort for native and endangered fish with the state (possibly a CDOW lead) from the GVIC and Grand Valley canals. >The Program Director's office will make sure an adequate report is provided on this. In the future, the Service may propose an annual monitoring effort in the canals (with a scope of work) to monitor efficiency of fish screens. Bob McCue added that the Service met to discuss drought impacts on Monday and noted that these effects on the fish might have been lessened if we had all screens and passage in place and operational. This places even

more emphasis on getting these and other recovery actions accomplished according to schedule. Brent Uilenberg agreed to the need to keep on schedule, but noted that there is no way to operate the GVIC screen in such a low water year as this.

5. Capital projects budget status - Brent Uilenberg noted two major cost increases reflected in the revised table: cost for screens has increased (~15-20%) based on what we've learned at GVIC; and Elkhead enlargement (reflecting Program paying for 50% of 12,000 af enlargement and all of the screen). This has reduced the "acquire new water to enhance flows" contingency to less than \$1M. No bottomland restoration costs are shown beyond FY 2003. >Reclamation and the Program Director's office still need to verify the bottomlands restoration costs to date. Contrary to the table, the FY 2003 work plan currently doesn't have capital funds programmed for nonnative fish control.
6. Elkhead enlargement - Brent Uilenberg said they met with Dan Birch and that CRWCD subsequently met with their consultant to refine cost estimates. The refined estimates are included in the economic evaluation posted to listserv by Bob Norman on 10/7/02. Brent reviewed the items (shown in the evaluation) that still need to be resolved before the Program makes a decision on Elkhead. Tom Pitts noted that it is easier to deliver water from Elkhead than Steamboat Reservoir and that the Colorado Department of Parks and Recreation is increasing the restrictions on use of Steamboat water. Tom Iseman said Dan Luecke has concerns about the total cost to the Program for Elkhead. The environmental groups look forward to seeing the refined numbers as the uncertainties are resolved. Brent said he believes we will need to make a decision on the screen fairly soon. Bob Muth said we can't do that until after this field season. Based on scheduling, Brent said we'll have to go ahead and include it in the design for now.
7. Legislation - Sherm Hoskins said the House and Senate are working on their versions of the omnibus bills. So far, it appears that inclusion of extension of the authorization period for federal and non-federal funding under P.L. 106-392 will be non-controversial. >Sherm will get an update on this before the Implementation Committee meeting.
8. Implementation Committee meeting - We will add a review of the capital projects list to the agenda (Brent will give under the PD update agenda item). Tom Iseman said they've been working on resolutions in support of the Program (TNC never signed one and Tom will be sending a draft to the Committee and they'll be proposing something similar from the Land and Water Fund). The environmental groups still have a challenge of fundraising for Dan's participation and don't expect Dan will attend the October 15 Committee meeting.
9. Brent Uilenberg noted that Bennett Raley spoke in highly of the Recovery Program yesterday at Reclamation's national endangered species in Portland.

ADJOURN: 10:40 a.m.

ASSIGNMENTS

The Program Director's office will make sure a report is provided on salvaging fish from the GVIC and Grand Valley Water Project canal this year.

Reclamation and the Program Director's office still need to verify the bottomlands restoration costs.

Sherm Hoskins will get an update on legislation to extend the authorization period for federal and non-federal funding under P.L. 106-392 before the Implementation Committee meeting.

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October 9, 2002**

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg	Bureau of Reclamation
Tom Blickensderfer	State of Colorado
Sherm Hoskins & Robert King	Utah Department Of Natural Resources
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
Bob McCue	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Shane Collins	Western Area Power Administration
Dave Mazour	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
John Reber	National Park Service
Tom Iseman	The Nature Conservancy

Nonvoting Member:

Bob Muth	Recovery Program Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Recovery Program Staff:

Angela Kantola	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pat Nelson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Czapla	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gerry Roehm	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Others

George Smith	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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