

**Conference Call Summary
Colorado River Management Committee
November 5, 2007**

Participants: See Attachment 1

CONVENE - 1:00 p.m.

1. Draft report to Congress – Dave Campbell reviewed comments from the San Juan Program. With regard to John Whipple’s comments on recommendation #2 (option b), Tom Pitts said the way it’s currently written is acceptable to the power users and Colorado. (Note that John Whipple’s comments were on the September, not the October draft of the report.) Leslie James said John W. may have concerns about other programs funded through the Basin Fund (e.g., salinity). The current provision of borrowing from the Colorado Water Conservation Board is okay with Leslie (though they wouldn’t want to encourage it.) Leslie James and Randy Seaholm said the Basin Fund has already taken out a couple of loans (~\$12M) (this is starting to be felt in the rates). >John Shields will call John Whipple to discuss his concerns and explain that it appears (John W’s) suggestion is essentially what’s in the current legislation (which doesn’t work). The Committee’s sense is that the current language is acceptable to the power users and to the Committee. The remaining comments from San Juan Program participants were fairly straightforward and can be incorporated. Tom Iseman said that since the lower basin benefits from this Program, the environmental groups would still like to consider the option of the lower basin (in general) stepping in if the Basin Fund runs low. The Committee said it’s not clear what funding source the lower basin could tap. Tom Iseman said they just want to be sure we’ve explored the full range of funding options in case of a shortage in the basin fund. With regard to Leslie James’ proposed change to the last paragraph describing the basin fund, no objections were raised, but Tom Iseman said he’d like a chance to run it by Dan Luecke and Robert Wigington. Bob Muth asked about some of John Whipple’s comments:
 - a. Page 19, second paragraph, fourth sentence – This hasn’t been resolved yet, so the Committee said this should be left as is.
 - b. Page 19, Table 8 – This is only projects which *have* undergone consultation.
 - c. Page 20, Table 9 – Tom Pitts said take out the word “modeled.” Randy Seaholm asked if Animas-La Plata is in or out of that table; Brent confirmed it is in. Clarify that not all of the projects represented in this table have undergone consultation.
 - d. Page 26, first sentence. Identified San Juan capital projects will be completed by 2010; but other projects which may have merit (but which are not yet approved) would not be completed by 2010. Bob Muth said the preamble to Appendix D separates out the two programs; Bob will add this to the text in the body of the report.

Dave Campbell will provide some clarification on John Whipple’s comments. With regard to Cathy Condon’s comments, The Nature Conservancy should be added to the list of San Juan Program participants (>Tom Iseman will check to make sure this is the case).

Cathy's comment B reflects the San Juan Program's original Program document. Not all in-kind contributions are specifically identified in the Upper Basin. Bob will talk to Dave about the first part of Cathy's comment B (and isolate it to the San Juan). With regard to Cathy's comment C, add "and in-kind funding" and add the list of Tribes to the list, so that the sentence reads: "This provides that annual and in-kind funding by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the States, the *[list]* Tribes, and water users identified in the original agreements will continue."

With regard to questions about the first two tables in Appendix B, they will be combined and appropriate changes made to the text.

In the executive summary, Tom Blickensderfer pointed out that this should say water *use and* development. Also, we may need to define in the executive summary what we mean by "eligible for continued funding after 2011" and "not eligible..." Bob Muth will modify the table to clarify this. In tables 13 and 14: change "in FY 2008 \$" to "in FY 2008 dollars."

The Committee discussed where we go from here with the report (whether the Implementation Committee needs to weigh in on it and when, etc.). >Bob Muth will revise the report and draft a transmittal memo saying that the Upper Colorado Management Committee and San Juan Coordinating Committee have reviewed the draft report and concur with it. The transmittal memo will include the report schedule and the reasons it needs to be sent to Congress by March 1. Bob will e-mail the revised draft report and the transmittal memo to Carol Taylor, Dave Campbell, and Carol DeAngelis to forward to the Service and Reclamation regional offices (with unofficial courtesy copies to the Washington offices). (Bob will copy Management and Implementation committee members on this e-mail.) The regional offices will have 30 days to provide comments. >Management Committee members will brief their Implementation Committee members on the report. >Angela Kantola will poll Management and Implementation committee members and schedule an Implementation Committee conference call between December 3rd and 14th (recognizing that some proxy representation will be inevitable given this short time frame) to discuss the report before it is officially transmitted to the Washington offices in early January (when letters would be sent from the non-Federal program participants supporting the report). By the February 27th Implementation Committee meeting, >the non-Federal program participants will provide draft legislation to discuss.

2. The Committee's next meeting is December 6 in Salt Lake City (Utah DNR) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADJOURN – 3:00 p.m.

Assignments

1. John Shields will call John Whipple to discuss his concerns about the draft report to Congress.
2. Tom Iseman will check to make sure The Nature Conservancy should be included in the San Juan Program participants list.
3. Bob Muth will revise the draft report to Congress and draft a transmittal memo saying that the Upper Colorado Management Committee and San Juan Coordinating Committee have reviewed the draft report and concur with it. The transmittal memo will include the report schedule and the reasons it needs to be sent to Congress by March 1. Bob will e-mail the revised draft report and the transmittal memo to Carol Taylor, Dave Campbell, and Carol DeAngelis to forward to the Service and Reclamation regional offices (with unofficial courtesy copies to the Washington offices). (Bob will copy Management and Implementation committee members on this e-mail.) The regional offices will have 30 days to provide comments.
4. Management Committee members will brief their Implementation Committee members on the report.
5. Angela Kantola will poll Management and Implementation committee members and schedule an Implementation Committee conference call between December 3rd and 14th (recognizing that some proxy representation will be inevitable given this short time frame) to discuss the report before it is officially transmitted to the Washington offices in early January (when letters would be sent from the non-Federal program participants supporting the report).
6. By the February 27th Implementation Committee meeting, the non-Federal program participants will provide draft legislation to discuss.

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November 5, 2007**

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg	Bureau of Reclamation
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Carol Taylor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John Reber	National Park Service
Tom Blickensderfer	Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Dave Mazour	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
Clayton Palmer	Western Area Power Administration
Tom Iseman	The Nature Conservancy
Robert King	State of Utah

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
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Others

Dave Campbell	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Juan River Recovery Program
Sharon Whitmore	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Juan River Recovery Program
Leslie James	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
Randy Seaholm	Colorado Water Conservation Board