

Water Acquisition Committee
Conference Call Summary
9:30 am – 11:00 a.m., July 11, 2003

Participants: George Smith, Tom Pitts, Randy Seaholm, Michelle Garrison, Bob Norman, Brent Uilenberg, Ray Tenney, Boyd Clayton, Malcolm Wilson, Dan Luecke, and Angela Kantola

Assignments are indicated by “>” and in bold.

1. CFOPS Report and Executive summary - Executive Committee members were provided a revised Executive Summary dated July 1 (also provided to the WAC). Randy said the Executive Committee should have a conference call in the next week to 10 days so they can provide a recommendation. Randy summarized the options considered. The Committee agreed they did not need to see the full final revised report, just the recommendations and Executive Summary and a brief summary of other pages that are changed. Randy said he believes the recommendations will have three parts: a) recognition that we're most efficient in getting additional water through the existing coordinated reservoir operations, and so will encourage continuing and possibly expanding that; b) providing water from a combination of different facilities with an insurance pool; c) recognizing potential benefit of the mainstem Webster Hill site just downstream of Rifle (however, this is in the upper reaches of critical habitat, so need to determine if feasible). Randy said he doesn't anticipate a need for any additional funding (already requested two \$10K increases from original budget, bringing total to \$405K). **>When the recommendations and executive summary are finalized, they will be sent to the WAC via e-mail and approved by e-mail if possible, or a conference call scheduled if necessary (notify George).**

2. 2004-05 scopes of work -
 - #8 George noted USGS revised costs for gages (per e-mail he sent out yesterday). George said Bob Plaska would like to see a couple of gages added on the Yampa after Elkhead is expanded. One is above Elkhead Creek and the other is on the Williams Fork above the confluence with the Yampa. George recommends moving the gage we currently operate on the Yampa above the Little Snake upstream just above Elkhead Creek (and do this a few years before the reservoir is expanded). **>George Smith will talk to USGS regarding whether there will be any additional costs to move the gage (no bridges, so they may have to put in a cable way). >Ray said he'd put the Williams Fork gage on the CRWCD's agenda and see if some CRWCD cost-sharing might be possible.** George noted there may be a need for additional gages on the Duchesne needed to get water past the dry dams. Boyd Clayton said he doesn't know how soon those will be needed. With regards to the Utah gages, Boyd said USGS is charging \$6200/gage in FY 04, so the Price will be \$8350 (which includes \$2,150 for temperature). FY 05 costs will be increased 10%. **>George Smith will review the draft Duchesne flow recommendations and determine if the current Price and Duchesne gages are needed and if they are in the right places. >George**

will revise scope of work and cost estimates.

- #9 Placeholder (if needed, WAC will be consulted).
- #19B Tom Pitts asked why we need real-time temperature monitoring at Flaming Gorge and George said that's part of the Flaming Gorge recommendations. It's only been in one year, and we haven't had the opportunity to release warmer or colder water in that time because the reservoir has only been releasing 800 cfs. George anticipates being able to use this information in the future, however.
- #19H Correct budget error on page 7.
- #67 George said the Steamboat water would be used to maintain the 93 cfs in the flow recommendations, when needed. We might use some of this water in '03. The Committee agreed we need to continue to negotiate the 5-year lease to provide water as needed until Elkhead comes online. Since funds are so limited, hopefully the water won't be needed in FY 04.
- #70 George said that the accounting for the 15MR PBO has been added to this & #71 (although not much detail provided). Randy Seaholm said the accounting is outlined in the PBO appendix and they will follow that.
- #71 FY 04 estimated cost is \$200K (itemized total is correct, but summary needs correcting).
- #C11 Budget has been revised to provide more detail.
- #86 Placeholder for geomorphology review (reviewers have included Bill Trush, John Pitlick, Jim O'Brien, Joe Lyons, and Jack Schmidt).
- #C9 Ray said it's still possible a construction contract could be let in FY 04, but likely no more than a third of the \$3.2M can be obligated in FY 04. The financing arrangement with CWCB is still being negotiated. **>Ray will provide revised budget numbers and >Gerry will correct the task numbers on page 8.**
- #113 Tom Pitts said the Aspinall EIS process will not be done until FY 07, so work probably won't begin on the PBO for another year or two. Randy said he believes some of the water users would like to get started on this sooner.
- #114 Brent questioned the need for PBO's where depletions are likely to be below the 4,500 af threshold. Tom Pitts said he believes there are some concerns regarding Section 9 coverage. Randy said he believes the PBO coverage may be necessary, but he sees it happening more sequentially (rather than concurrently with the Gunnison R. PBO).
- #135 & C32 - SOW not required (contract covers).

UNSOL - NOAA Climate Diagnostics Center Proposal Pitlick's peer review asked what good this would do if dam operators won't use daily forecasts for their operations anyway. PD's office doesn't recommend. WAC did not endorse funding this given our tight budget and limited benefit of the work.

12C - Malcolm said there may be enough water for coordinated reservoir operations in FY 04. He believes the \$28.8K is all additional work (over and above what Reclamation would do even if there were no coordinated reservoir operations), but **>Reclamation will take another look at that breakout. >Malcolm will provide a revised SOW to the Management Committee & WAC next week.**

3. Late reports - George said a) John Pitlick's report on the 15 and 18-mile reach - John hope to have a draft no later than the end of September; and b) USGS report on Yampa Green sediment monitoring - John Elliot has been working on fire-related work and won't have time to finalize that report this fiscal year. We have a draft report, but they have one more year of data not included in the draft. **>George will keep prodding them and may draft a letter to Paul vonGueard encouraging USGS to complete the report. (George will also check to see if they've been fully paid.)**
4. Update on river flows and fish flow targets - We had good snowpack and spring peak, but flows are now down significantly. There was 1170 cfs this morning at Palisade (low, but much better than last year's 217 cfs). Green River at Jensen is 1760 is really low and will likely affect fish sampling. If flows at Cameo drop to 1950 cfs (which Brent says could happen next week), that will dry up the 15-Mile Reach, and the Service plans to ask for 250 cfs from the fish pool at Ruedi, Wolford and Williams Fork reservoirs. Perhaps by the middle of August HUP surplus pool water will be available from Green Mountain.
5. Other business - Dan Luecke asked that his name be put on the WAC list (in addition to Tom Iseman). The current e-mail list for the WAC should be:

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