

August 6, 2010

Water Acquisition Committee
Draft Conference Call Summary
August 5, 2010

Participants: Tom Pitts, Dan Luecke, Matt Lindon, Mike Roberts, Andrew Gilmore, Gene Shawcroft, Michelle Garrison, John Shields, Jana Mohrman, Leslie James, and Angela Kantola.

Assignments are indicated in the document in bold, preceded by a ">".

1. Review/modify agenda – The agenda was modified as it appears below.
2. Approve meeting notes from April 21, 2010 – The meeting summary was approved as written.
3. Utah’s WAT updates – Matt Lindon said he met with in-house policy committee who tasked him to develop a work plan (scheduled to be complete by September 30). Matt will be meeting with several folks next week to draft the plan, then will take to the DNR policy committee shortly thereafter. He hopes to have it back to the WAC by mid-September. The plan will be fairly comprehensive, but some of the due dates may not be as aggressive as some had hoped for. The monthly technical team meetings have continued; they are awaiting Reclamation’s model and the in-house water right models (likely in September), then they can begin running scenarios and reviewing results in October-November. Jana mentioned a field trip has been suggested, but it’s not yet scheduled. The trip may include a visit to Tusher Wash (if so, >Jana will be sure to get some good photographs, especially one that shows the “big picture,” if possible). Terry Fulp has offered to brief the group on Reclamation’s basinwide modeling effort. Jana mentioned the Service filed an objection to the water right application on Whiterock Creek in the Duchesne River basin due to its potential to dry up the channel in the winter because of the way they plan to fill the reservoir. (Subsequent to the meeting, Jana sent the Committee a copy of the Service’s letter and >will copy the Committee with future protest letters).
4. Yampa River Depletion report update – Michelle Garrison said she hopes to begin work on this at the end of August and have something out in September. John Shields said Wyoming will have submitted their information late August. In the future, Colorado may ask to put the Yampa and Colorado depletion reporting on the same schedule. Jana said that Patty Gelatt has asked about incorporating TNC’s work on StateMOD into Colorado’s Yampa depletion accounting. Michelle said Ray looked at TNC’s StateMOD and provided comments. It does a good job of generating the type of information Colorado generated in 2002. But to look at depletions from 2005 forward, all they have at this point is StateCU. >Michelle will talk with Patty about what the Service would like to see. >Mike will check w Robert Wigington to see where he’s at with this, also.
5. 10825 update – Tom Pitts discussed the process to replace the current releases from Ruedi to the 15-Mile Reach. Releases of water from Granby should be firmed up soon and NEPA should be back on track for completion April 1, 2011. For a revised arrangement from Reclamation for water from Ruedi, legislation may be needed to authorize Reclamation to release the water. Recently though, Reclamation proposed a

40-year \$1.1M contract with water users, which, if approved, could eliminate the need for legislation.

6. CFOPS update – Tom Pitts said this is a requirement of the 15-Mile Reach PBO. The target is to get report to Program by September 30. They need to update the report based on CROS operations in 2008 and 2009. Michelle will have the 2008 report out next week and the 2009 report shortly thereafter. Then they can analyze how reservoir releases to augment the peak could be made. The idea is to the extent necessary, we would use a portion of the Service’s pools of fish water to augment the spring peak, instead of later during base flows. This will require legal review. Concerns may remain regarding flows in the Fryingpan and reservoir levels for the Aspen Yacht Club.
7. OMID – BOR is reviewing draft contracts from the CRWC. BOR is waiting for the outcome of the East/West slope negotiations on the Global Settlement to see if there will be any funding for the OMID O&M. If not we need to approach the OMID Board of Directors to see if they can pay for the O&M.
8. Tusher Wash update – The Biology Committee's discussed Tusher Wash screening during their May meeting. The Program Director’s office developed a matrix of potential effects of different screening options, with the caveat that we don’t know amount of current mortality. Kevin Bestgen ran some conceptual scenarios estimating mortality (sans actual flow numbers). The Biology Committee did not make a recommendation, but leaned toward a retrofitting of the turbines and screening of the irrigation water. The Biology Committee assembled a smaller team to continue assessing potential effects. The Biology Committee will make a recommendation to the Management Committee by 12/31/10.
9. Current timeline for the USGS "Gunnison, Green, and Colorado Rivers Interpretive Sediment Transport Report 85F"
 - i. 5/15/10 USGS Supervisor comments back to Author
 - ii. 6/1/10 Resubmit to Supervisor and Jana/Tom/Angela
 - iii. 6/8/10 Return Comments back to Author from Supervisor and Jana/Tom/Angela
 - iv. 6/15/10 30-day peer review will be for 30 days.
 - v. 6/29/10 Report submitted to Biology/Water Acquisition Committees for 30 days
 - vi. 7/14/10 Peer review due
 - vii. 8/6/10 Biology/Water Acquisition Committees’ reviews due
 - viii. 9/6 -10/6 Revised report to Biology/Water Acquisition committees for joint review/approval
 - a. Publish in early 2011
10. Tom Pitts would prefer to have a briefing from the author after the report is modified in September or October. Dan Luecke continues to have concerns about the regression methodology and concurred with peer reviewers who have suggested that the author needs to make the data available. Dan agreed it would be helpful if the group could discuss the report with the author after he has made changes. (Both Tom and Dan plan to submit comments; although Dan asked for an extra week to submit theirs.) >Jana will let Cory know this. Dan agreed it’s important to get this report right and that we need to

give Cory adequate time to address comments. The report does not contain recommendations for what sediment monitoring should occur in the future. When the WAC and BC do get briefing from Cory, it should probably be via web conference.

11. “Ideas for CROS Flood Guidance at Cameo” – This was helpful for this year and Jana has finalized it to help with future CROS operations. After NWS collects more information it will be updated regarding the I-70 Bridge which is upstream of the confluence of the Gunnison River.
12. Status of USGS’ Elkhead Creek Transit Loss Report – Final report should come out soon; the report did not indicate a need for any change in managing releases from Elkhead.
13. Schedule next WAC conference call – October 12, 2-4 p.m. Agenda items may include: Utah flow protection work plan, Yampa depletion report review, and CFOPS.

ADJOURN: 3:00 p.m.