

July 21, 2009

Water Acquisition Committee
Draft Meeting Summary
July 20, 2009

Participants: Matt Lindon, Boyd Clayton, John Shields, Brent Uilenberg, Gene Shawcroft, Dan Luecke, Michelle Garrison, Tom Pitts, Jana Mohrman, and Angela Kantola.

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

CONVENE 1:30 p.m.

1. Review/modify agenda – The agenda was modified as it appears below.
2. Approve meeting notes from 6/3/9 – The Committee approved the revised summary sent out by Jana on 6/22/09; >Jana will post this summary to the fws-coloriver listserver as final.
3. Review Scopes of Work for 2010 and 2011 – Gene asked if the new Ouray gage is in the SOW for project #8; it is, see link in #9 below. With regard to the CRDSS SOW (#71), Michelle said CWCB is not necessarily asking that Colorado be credited in the *Program Highlights* budget pie chart for the entire amount (~\$881K in 2010 and ~\$1M in 2011), but a large portion will be directly related to flow protection for the endangered fishes. >Michelle and Ray Alvarado will provide a revised SOW clarifying the portion directly related to the Recovery Program in advance of the August Management Committee meeting. Elkhead O&M is much higher than the \$40K originally estimated by the Program Director’s office; the costs of managing a small reservoir are relatively high. Angela added the full request to the budget spreadsheet. (other comments may be seen on the 2010 -2011 budget spreadsheets)
4. Utah Updates
 - a. Ratification process for year-round subordination on the Green River:
 - i. Year-round protection above the Duchesne: Public meeting held by August 31 – The public meeting is scheduled for August 20 at 2 p.m. at the Western Park Convention Center in Vernal; all are invited. Utah hopes to proceed with signing the policy shortly thereafter we’ll have the protection place by December 31, 2009.
 - ii. Year-round protection downstream of the Duchesne to the Colorado River – Utah will provide an outline for a protection plan by December 31, 2009.
 - b. Spreadsheet for Cumulative assessment of upcoming water right claims Utah's upper Basin - Jana is still looking at this. Matt said they’ve also been adding more detail to map on the internet for Utah water rights to show location and data to depict potential impacts.
 - c. Clarify whether the Reclamation water given to Utah from Flaming Gorge will use service contracts as the Federal nexus (with no depletion fee). Boyd says this is how they understand it.
 - d. Water service agreements structured as additional releases from Flaming Gorge - Gene Shawcroft said he understands that any release from the Gorge under a water service agreement would be on top of minimum flows. When minimum flows are met and there is excess water in the system, water service agreements may take water from the river’s excess. Gene said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Larry Crist) has been involved in the meetings on this and has been providing comments.

5. A delay in the USGS Sediment Monitoring and Evaluation Report but the peer reviewers (Paul von Guerard, John Pitlick, Kirk LaGory, Bob Mussetter, and Scott Wright [USGS]) have agreed to new schedule: 8/1/09 Report submitted for supervisory and Recovery Program 2-week review; 9/1/09 Report submitted for technical review to peer reviewers (30 days) and Biology/Water Acquisition committee members (45 days); 10/1/09 Peer review due; 10/15/09 Biology/Water Acquisition committees member reviews due; 12/1/09 Revised report to Biology/Water Acquisition committees for joint review/approval.
6. Ray and Brent have arranged payment for FY 07 & 08 Elkhead O&M, and SOW's for 2009, 2010, and 2011 have been submitted. Brent said Tri-State, the City of Craig, the State, the River District, et al, will continue to meet as an oversight committee on this project.
7. The Colorado River Basin Forecast Center (NWS) is reviewing whether ESP can predict a surplus in the HUP pool - Michele said NWS finished reviewing the bias corrections methods and concluded that they can continue to use ESP without bias correction. NWS is doing this analysis at no cost. Michelle will discuss this work further with NWS this week. The first HUP call is this Thursday at 10 a.m.
8. Trip to Little Snake River scoping for a new reservoir project late summer/fall field tour - John Shields may report on this at the Management Committee meeting.
9. [Doppler gage below Ouray NWR](#) is up on the internet and being used. Jana Mohrman said Kevin Bestgen has been using the data and is very appreciative.
10. Myton Diversion SCADA installation update – Gene said the diversion is operational, but isn't sure that the SCADA system is online yet.
11. OMID - Brent Uilenberg said they met with the River District two weeks ago and suggested that they could improve the chances of this project by seriously considering cost-sharing the annual O&M expenses; the River District is reviewing this. The River District's Board will discuss Wednesday whether to move forward on acquisition of the re-regulating reservoir site.
12. Aspinall's May runoff was under predicted this year. The River Forecasting center is usually within 10% of their May forecast for Blue Mesa. Perhaps the warm early May, dust-on-snow, a cooler moister end of May combined for a more efficient runoff and more water. The data will be analyzed and conclusions will be available. The Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District is funding a new snotel site above Taylor Reservoir (\$10k to install NRCS may start seeking funds for O&M); other snotel sites would be helpful.
13. The Yampa Management Plan calls for a 5-year review of the need for an instream flow, is this complete under the terms of the Yampa River Basin PBO. In his June 11 e-mail to the Committee, Tom Pitts June 11 e-mail proposed that: 1) Jana summarize the efforts of the Division Engineer re: administration and protection of releases from Elkhead and the commitment of the state to protect those releases; 2) the Committee recommend that because releases are being protected and these efforts are just beginning, we defer an instream flow filing to protect flows for endangered fish at this time as we need to learn more about administration in the Yampa; and 3) the situation be reviewed in five years (specify date and include in the RIPRAP). This proposal likely would provide compliance with the PBO re: review of the need for a filing on a five year basis. Michelle thought this made sense and will talk to Linda Bassi to determine if Shell's filing suggests a need to do anything different. >Jana will check with the Service and also ask the rest of the Water Acquisition Committee to weigh in on Tom's proposal via e-mail.

14. Million project – Gene Shawcroft asked who is submitting comments. Angela said the Service is commenting; >Jana will provide a copy of those comments, if possible. Dan Luecke said several environmental organizations in Colorado will comment and that several entities in Wyoming have passed resolutions and/or will be commenting. Tom Pitts said water users will not be commenting. Boyd Wright said that Utah will be commenting though the Resource Development Coordination Committee (RDCC).
15. Schedule next WAC conference call – The Committee will share information via e-mail and perhaps hold their next call in October unless something else comes up beforehand.