

Meeting Notes

14 Oct 2009

Location: Douglas PUD Auditorium, East Wenatchee

For more info contact: Casey Baldwin 509-664-3148 casey.baldwin@dfw.wa.gov

RTT members present: Casey Baldwin, Joe Kelly, John Arterburn, Karl Polivka, Dale Bambrick, Kate Terrell, Chuck Peven, Keely Murdoch, Cameron Thomas, Tracy Hillman (phone), Russell Langshaw (phone)

Others Present: James White, Julie Morgan, Pamela Nelle, Doug Rushton, Heather Java, Paul LaRiviere, Jonathan Kohr, John Crandall, Mary McCrea, Katherine Bill, and Greg Knot.

1) **Updates: UCSRB.** Julie Morgan provided several updates from the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board.

- Julie described the current effort to work with BPA and determine if a programmatic approach with the Board made sense for anadromous fish habitat protection and restoration projects funded through the BPA Fish and Wildlife Program. Their desire would be for the RTT to have a role in the project review and approval, but the details have not been worked out. Board staff has begun establishing a workgroup to refine the project and funding coordination, particularly as it relates to the potential programmatic project with BPA. She requested the participation of the Casey, Kate, and Cameron Thomas based on their activity and interest level through the Implementation Team. Casey extended the offer to participate to any other RTT members who were interested.

Dale expressed concern that there would be problems if all interested parties were not on board with that approach. John pointed out that the Fish and Wildlife program has obligations beyond just listed fish which would have to be taken into account.

- Julie asked for time at a later RTT meeting to discuss/review options for habitat protection lease agreements or “term acquisitions”.
- Julie described the recent memo from Berry Thom that discussed the recent evaluation of Upper Columbia spring Chinook status related to Early Warning Indicators from the Obama Administration Adaptive Management Implementation Plan. Casey handed out the memo and discussed the trigger that had been tripped and the uncertainty of the process and outcomes to determine what the appropriate Rapid Response Actions might be. Julie emphasized that she was bringing this up as an FYI and would keep the RTT informed as more information became available.

RTT operating procedures: Casey handed out a set of RTT operating procedures that included some edits and comments from John Arterburn since the last RTT

meeting. The group agreed to all the edits but there was considerable discussion around one aspect of the project review criteria. There was concern that our general decision making rules (60% of a quorum) were different than our project review rules. RTT members who attend the project tours and the pre-proposal presentation were not allowed to submit scores during the final rating meeting if they would not be present. Casey pointed out that for project review we are not asked to “decide” if a project should receive funding but to provide an evaluation of the technical merit of the project. Kate mentioned that RTT members who do not attend the final rating meeting can still submit comments and information for the group to consider. Casey and Kate both emphasized the importance of being present at the final meeting in order to benefit from the discussion. Historically, when RTT members were allowed to “mail in” their project review scores there was unexplainable inconsistencies between the reviewers that could not be resolved. Some RTT members thought that attending the pre-proposal activities provided a good enough understanding of the project that they should not be required to attend the final rating meeting. Casey called for a vote on the issue because there did not appear to be consensus from the discussion. Casey asked who was in favor of keeping the current requirement that RTT members had to attend (or conference call into) the final rating meeting in order for their scores to count. Of nine voting members present during the discussion six were in favor and 1 abstained so with more than 60% of a quorum the requirement will remain in place. After the vote Dale suggested changing the wording to “who can live with the requirement to be present” and see if anyone objects. With that modification there was consensus.

Julie asked to work with Casey on some wording in the second paragraph. The RTT agreed that Casey should finalize this version of the operating procedures, with the edits from Julie and John.

2) **Chewuch Diversion White Paper Presentation (Katherine Bill, Greg Knot, Mary McCrea)**

The presenters provided an overview of the current situation with Chewuch Canal water conservation options. Greg presented the potential WUA curves for a couple of the water conservation quantities and explained some of the nuances with water use and water storage. Mary described three of the alternatives they are considering for water conservation in the Chewuch.

Discussion points and suggestions included:

- Filling Pearrygin Lake earlier in the season (May-June) so that there is more water for fish when it is needed the most (August-September).
- Calculating the water user needs based on current irrigated acres (rather than previous use or historical withdrawals) and then conserving as much additional water as possible for fish.
- The duration of the water needs for fish benefits will be in perpetuity since recovery will be a long process and we will need to maintain the restoration and protection efforts in order to maintain improved fish status.

- Better defining the conveyance losses and the accuracy and precision of such estimates.
- Climate change will add uncertainty to the predictive power of the WUA curves
- consider proposing a full fix of the CCC system so as to enable better consideration of the potential total costs and benefits.

3) RTT Analysis Workshop: Casey described the current situation with the timing and reiterated the reasons for changing the date of the workshop. The group reviewed the doodle-poll and decided that postponing the workshop until January 12-13 was the best option.

Casey walked the group through the current draft agenda and suggestions and edits were made on presentation order and discussion topics. Casey and James will follow up with the modified agenda. The MaDMC will work on the data gaps session details at their meeting this afternoon. Julie and Barb will work on logistics with Red Lion for changing the dates. James will be working with presenters to get abstracts completed so that the UCSRB can get programs printed up. Casey will put out an announcement regarding the new dates for the workshop.

12:00 Before adjourning the meeting Casey thanked those who had been able to attend the 10 year celebration by the UCSRB and extended the Boards gratitude and recognition of the RTT. He handed out t-shirts, hats and certificates to the remaining RTT members and let people know that Ken Bevis's historic performances could be seen through the UCSRBs You Tube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuIX8WqiifQ>

12:05 Adjourn

13:00 MaDMC Meeting