

**Gila River Basin Native Fishes Conservation Program
CAP Joint Committee Meeting Minutes – DRAFT
February 23, 2015**

Topics:

1. **Update on recent land/water acquisition for Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery.** Chris Cantrell (Chief of Fisheries, Arizona Game and Fish Department [AZGFD]) provided an update on the December land and water acquisition of the Page Family property, adjacent to Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery. This acquisition provides additional opportunities to hold and propagate native fishes and will help conserve local Mexican gartersnakes.
2. **Program funding status.** Rob Clarkson (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation [Reclamation]) provided handouts on the Program funding status.
3. **Update on Reclamation assuming responsibility from USFWS on transferring program funding to partners.** Rob Clarkson discussed the status of transferring Program contract administration from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to Reclamation. The transfer is still in progress, but is not complete. Reclamation is looking into some concerns with procurement process, but Reclamation already has set up a direct grant to AZGFD for bald eagle work.
4. **Funding process for New Mexico partners.** Doug Duncan (USFWS) waiting to hear from Denver finance folks if we have to do a new agreement for last year's funding for NM; prefer to use the existing agreement. Revising existing agreement is easier to do. There is a problem with using old fund codes—when these codes are closed the system kicks out the requests to reimburse with late invoicing. This also affects Gila National Forest and ASU refuge populations. Bottom line, NMDGF will get reimbursed. Recommend scheduling a call with Doug, Steve Spangle, NMDGF's financial folks, Andrew, Mike, and Kirk to discuss.
5. **Recommendations from the Tech Comm on FY2016 continuing projects.** Rob Clarkson summarized the Tech Comm recommendations.
6. **Update on new piscicide (Supaverm®) testing by USGS lab.** Rob Clarkson provided an update on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) LaCrosse Lab progress on testing Supaverm® as a potential new piscicide. Rob collected and shipped live fish for the lab to use in these trials. See handout provided for preliminary results. The USGS lab has had some success in repeating the results that Dr. David Ward reported, but this work is ongoing.
7. **Fish barrier update.** Rob Clarkson provided a quick update on biological opinion-mandated fish barriers completed, in progress and planned. In progress are Spring Creek (a tributary to Oak Creek) and West Fork Black River—this year, Redfield Canyon and O'Donnell Creek—next year, and Eagle Creek, Middle Fork Gila River, and Spring Creek (tributary to Tonto Creek)—thereafter.
8. **AZGFD leadership in native fish management in Arizona.** Jim deVos (Assistant Wildlife

Director of Wildlife Management Division, AZGFD) discussed AZGFD's leadership role for the State's native fish management. AZGFD will continue to host and lead annual Statewide Native Fish Conservation Team meetings and regional meetings as a forum to discuss native fish management topics and coordinate management efforts among partners. AZGFD will also keep the partners informed through quarterly newsletters on native fish and aquatic species management actions.

9. **Blue River fish management.** Tony Robinson (CAP Program Manager, AZGFD) provided an update on AZGFD's Blue River fish management efforts and assurance that AZGFD will continue to manage the Blue River for native fishes.

Gila River Basin Native Fishes Conservation Program CAP Joint Comm Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday 2/23/2015

Time: 10am-noon (AZ local time)

Location: Nighthawk Room, AZGFD headquarters, Phoenix, AZ

Conference Call-in: 1-888-865-8337 with passcode 17510#

Agenda Topics:

1. Update on recent land/water acquisition for Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery (Andy Clark)
2. Program funding status (Rob Clarkson)
3. Update on Reclamation assuming responsibility from USFWS on transferring program funding to partners (Rob Clarkson)
4. Funding process for New Mexico partners (Doug Duncan)
5. Recommendations from the Tech Comm on FY2016 continuing projects (Rob Clarkson)
6. Update on new piscicide (Supaverm®) testing by USGS lab (Rob Clarkson)
7. Fish barrier update (Rob Clarkson)
8. AZGFD leadership in native fish management in Arizona (Jim deVos)
9. Blue River fish management (Tony Robinson)