

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Agenda Item Information
May 8th, 2013

Agenda Item

Renewing the AMWG Charter

Action Requested

✓ Information and discussion.

Presenters

Ann Gold, AMWG Charter Ad Hoc Group

Previous Action Taken

See background information below.

Relevant Science

N/A

Background Information

February 10, 2011: Motion (Proposed by George Caan, seconded by Dennis Strong): AMWG recommends that the Secretary of the Interior adopt the changes to the AMWG Charter; and if the Secretary does so, that the AMWG adopt the operating procedures as attached in the draft from the Charter Ad Hoc Group dated February 9, 2011 and request that the CAHG review the level of participation of the DOI agencies approximately 18 months after the institution of the new Charter and make a recommendation to the AMWG as to whether the ex-officio nature of their involvement should continue.

February 10, 2011: Motion (Proposed by Mike Senn, seconded by Alan Downer): AMWG asks the CAHG to re-evaluate the recommendation regarding the composition of the AMWG, based on input provided at the February 2011 AMWG meeting, for possible consideration at the next regularly scheduled AMWG meeting.

August 24, 2011: Recommendations to the Secretary. Ms. Castle announced that the changes to the AMWG Charter recommended in February 2011 had been adopted by the Secretary. She distributed copies of the new AMWG Charter and said it incorporates the provision that the DOI agencies who are AMWG members will not vote on a trial basis. However, as part of that provision, the DOI agencies committed to actively participate in the AMWG and make their views known. Having discussed the TWG voting procedures with some AMWG members and internally with the DOI agencies, Ms. Castle said it would be consistent for the DOI agencies on the TWG to also not vote during the same trial period. As a result of changes in the charter, the AMWG Operating Procedures also need to be reviewed and she said DOI would take a first cut on possible changes and bring it back to the AMWG for further discussion.

February 23, 2012: Introductions and Administrative. Ms. Anne Castle noted that the new AMWG Charter designates DOI AMWG representatives as non-voting. She said that in her view, non-voting members should not propose motions, but can participate in discussions about motions and propose amendment language and alternate motions. Members were invited to let her know of concerns.

The AMWG Charter was renewed in 2011 after deliberation by the AMWG at its February 2011 meeting, and further deliberation prior to the meeting by the AMWG Charter Ad Hoc Group. During discussion at the February 2011 meeting, there was some concern expressed regarding whether changing the status of the DOI bureaus to non-voting/ex-officio members would create issues with transparency or cause DOI agencies to disengage from the AMWG process. There was an agreement to revisit the issue in approximately 18 months of implementation of the Charter with the DOI agencies operating in an ex-officio capacity. The AMWG Charter will expire in August 2013, and the CAHG was asked to evaluate whether there were any concerns regarding the DOI members serving in an ex-officio capacity. CAHG members and tribes were contacted and no concerns were expressed

February 20, 2013: A discussion occurred with AMWG members regarding whether there were any concerns regarding DOI agencies being non-voting members. None were expressed but additional issues regarding the charter were brought up for review. These included whether the language should be changed in section 4f to add the Desired Future Conditions or other documents to further define goals and objectives; whether the \$600,000 specified in section 7 was still appropriate based on sequestration and other budget issues; and whether the Havasupai Tribe should be added to section 12 as a member of the AMWG. The CAHG was asked to follow-up on these issues in preparation for the next AMWG. The CAHG evaluated the concerns expressed and determined that the language related to the dollar amount specified for support functions should remain as is since it appears appropriate based on what we know today regarding the effects of sequestration. Contact has been made with the Havasupai Tribe but further discussions with the tribe are necessary in order to determine their desire to participate in AMWG.

Related to adding the Desired Future Conditions goals/objectives to section 4f, CAHG members believed that because there had been significant work done on the DFCs and they had been accepted by the Secretary, it was important to reference them in this section. The proposed revision is to change 4f to read as follows:

Annually review long-term monitoring data to provide advice on the status of resources and whether *the Desired Future Conditions and* the AMP Strategic Plan goals and objectives are being met. If necessary, develop recommendations for modifying the GCDEIS ROD, associated operating criteria, and other resource management actions pursuant to the Act. (Wording changes in italics.)

Therefore, the CAHG proposes to the Secretaries Designee to renew the charter with this minor change with the understanding that further developments may require changes prior to the next renewal cycle.