

To: SEAHG MEMBERS

From: L. D. Garrett, SEAHG Chair

Subject: Summary of findings of SEAHG Committee Meetings on Socio-Economic Program Proposals for TWG; 1/15/2014

Date: 1/17/2014

The SEAHG Webinar/Conference Call was convened on 1/15/2014 to finalize SEAHG Committee recommendations to the TWG regarding socioeconomic programs and budget needs for the FY 2015/16 program and budget period. The Chair thanked Linda Whetton, BOR and Lucas Bair, GCMRC for developing the logistics for the meeting.

In attendance for the meeting were the following members: Lucas Bair, Shane Capron, Leslie James, Jan Balsom, Jerry Myers, Jane Bird, Jason Thiriot, Clayton Palmer, Jenika Raub, and Dave Garrett. Linda Whetton, BOR documented mtg. discussions

Garrett reviewed the mtg. agenda and stated the objective for the call was to review the three SE projects recommended on the 12/4/13 SEAHG call, and to continue to review originally recommended projects for consideration of additional SE projects. Bair and Garrett would present overviews of the three projects supported in the 12/4/13 mtg., and the Group would then discuss and propose additional projects that might be recommended to the TWG. The recommendations of the Group would be summarized at the end of the meeting. The Group agreed to the objective and procedures for documenting their recommendations.

Garrett also proposed that all developed recommendations at this meeting would be summarized by the Chair and forwarded in a written one or two paragraph statement to the Group for review and approval for submission to the 1/29/14 TWG meeting. The Group agreed to the proposal.

Capron noticed the Group that the 2015/16 program recommendations to the TWG from the SEAHG should be presented at the 1/29/14 mtg. and would be considered with all recommendations to the AMWG being developed by the TWG. The final TWG recommendations to AMWG on 2015/16 programs and budgets will not be made until the summer AMWG mtg.

Bair presented two presentations in the form of PPTs; "Economics Research at GCMRC", and "Adaptive Management".

In the area of economics research Bair proposed that GCMRC could collaborate with the SEAHG in development of a project that would evaluate direct expenditures on recreation in the general CRE area. Budget may not exist for work on Lake Powell/Lake Mead. The project would be based on data from the

recently proposed NPS survey instrument to OMB for approval. Due to economic constraints, and the potential higher economic values associated with non-market values, the market or direct expenditure assessments of the original proposed survey to the SEAHG could not be pursued by the NPS. Bair noted that Dr. Schmidt had approved this GCMRC proposal and he had also discussed it with BOR and NPS. The primary goal would be to complete the market based assessment using data from the NPS developed instrument. All parties were in agreement with GCMRC proceeding with the project if support existed in the SEAHG and it was recommended as a priority project by the SEAHG. Bair noted the methods for pursuing the recreation market assessment would include using the existing above noted NPS survey instrument on direct market expenditures for developing the data base. The instrument should be available from OMB and the NPS in late 2014 or early 2015 to permit initiation of data collection. At that point GCMRC would be responsible for data collection, analysis and reporting of the research findings. Although the survey instrument has limited or no opportunity for revision it is comprehensive and would offer extensive new findings on these recreation market values. Bair also projected the costs for the project to be in the vicinity of \$240,000 which would exist in the GCMRC SE carryover budgets for 2013/2014. And, as noted Schmidt would agree to use these funds for this activity if supported by the SEAHG. Bair proposed that the project be accomplished in collaboration with the SEAHG and he wished to initiate the project in the current budget cycle. However, it would not be complete until possibly 2016, after the EIS/LTEMP process is proposed for completion.

Bair requested input and questions and input were provided by James, Myers, Balsom, Thiriot, Garrett, and Palmer. The group noted this project was a project that the SEAHG wished to initiate as quickly as possible and should be completed by GCMRC if possible. Bair was requested to provide a brief paper to the SEAHG that details what specific recreation market values will be pursued. Bair agreed to provide his PPTs and a written prospectus to the SEAHG. Garrett was requested to summarize this project as a SE project proposal by the Group.

Capron asked Bair if GCMRCs request to the SEAHG and TWG was for their support and recommendation to start this research activity in 2014 on existing funds and Bair confirmed it was the GCMRC request. Because GCMRC wished to start the project immediately on already approved 2013/14 funds for SE research, Capron noticed that Garrett was to briefly summarize this SEAHG proposal and submit it to the TWG for consideration on 1/29/14, and have a separate SEAHG proposal for SE projects that would require 2015/16 budget resources. Garrett agreed to have the documents and short PPT available to the TWG meeting.

Bair presented a second potential research project for consideration in the area of "Decision Methods to support Adaptive Management Programs". This project is proposed for consideration as a 2015/16 socioeconomic program activity. It was proposed by the SEAHG as an information need. The focus would be to evaluate more rapid assessment decision support methods that incorporate economic criteria and values and therefore produce more useful planning direction on research and management alternatives. It would require significant interaction of GCMRC, SEAHG and TWG to evaluate differing decision support methodologies and approaches to best serve the needs of the AMP. Bair provided arguments for the needs for the methods and general approaches that could be employed. Simplistic examples were also presented. Further discussions of this 2015/16 research proposal was supported by the Group. Palmer and Thiriot proposed that given that the right models and economic data could be developed, this approach would be a useful and valuable project addition to the AMP over the next two years. A prospectus on the project was requested by the SEAHG and Bair agreed to provide it before the

TWG mtg. Garrett agreed to draft a short paragraph for Capron and Jordon on this 2015/16 SE project proposal for the TWG mtg.

Garrett reviewed the SEAHG's 12/5/13 proposal to conduct a "Non-Market Valuation Workshop" in 2015. The workshop originally was proposed with the objective of identifying potential directions and methods for pursuing the SEAHG recommended non-market assessment projects. However, some of these AMP proposed projects are now already being implemented in the EIS/LTEMP process. Garrett recommended that the SEAHG felt it should revise the objective of the workshop. Discussions by James, Thiriot, Myer, Palmer pointed to support for a workshop in early 2015 that would focus on a general new objective that would provide specific description of what non-market and market assessments were currently underway for the EIS/LTEMP, what methods were being used and how the AMP might best use the outcomes of these assessments in its ongoing planning processes for science and management activities. Garrett reported that the original projection on the cost of the workshop was established at \$10,000 but the new objective would reduce this cost. The Group also recommended the Workshop be attached to a regular TWG meeting if possible. Garrett agreed to develop a short paragraph of a proposal for this project for the TWG mtg.

Garrett requested input on additional projects from the SEAHG as potential 2015/16 SE program recommendations. Garrett proposed that in his review of the SEAHG proposed INs and projects and projects currently underway, he identified an area that may not have ongoing or planned assessments. It relates to assessments of Tribal values associated with Native American cultural resources. The Group could not identify another specific 2015/16 project need to accommodate the information needs it originally proposed. However, discussions were had by Capron, Myers, James, Thiriot, Palmer, and others on confusion that exists on what was proposed as needed and what is planned. Capron requested Garrett evaluate Table 3 and the approved SEAHG proposals and develop a more simplistic table. The table and text should describe in more simplistic and brief terms what was proposed by the SEAHG to be accomplished, what is now planned for accomplishment, and what may still be needed. Garrett agreed to develop the assessment.

Garrett made a final request for new proposed SE projects and none were proposed. He reiterated that the draft summary of the SEAHG meetings would be forwarded for SEAHG review and provided in final at the TWG meeting. A short set of three paragraphs would be sent following the summary of mtgs. The three paragraphs would be the three recommended SE projects from the SEAHG to the TWG. The SEAHG recommended recreation market assessment is proposed for funding from 2013/14 carryover funds and will continue through 2015/16. The decision support project and non-market values workshop are proposed for support from 2015/16.

This summary will be followed by the SEAHG proposal to the TWG on the three SE projects supported for recommendation for funding in 2014 and 2015/16.