

March TWG follow-up
March 19, 2009
By Shane Capron

July 16-17, 2009 meeting minutes still open
October 15-16, 2009 meeting minutes approved as modified by Randy S.

Next TWG meeting is June 22/23 in Phoenix at Arizona Department of Water Resources

MRP/SSP Revision

MOTION: approved by vote of 16 yes/1 no/1 abstain; 17 voting

TWG recommends that AMWG approve the Strategic Science Plan and the Monitoring and Research Plan as modified and amended by GCMRC in their March 6, 2009 memorandum, and per discussions at the TWG meeting (March 16, 2009).

The TWG recognizes that the subject of non-native fish control has technical, budget, and policy implications, and wishes to identify to AMWG that these issues will need to be resolved, and that the MRP and SSP may need to be modified to reflect these policy changes.

FY 2010-11 Preliminary Budget Recommendation

DRAFT MOTION: to be considered by conference call, Linda will send out an email with date requests.

TWG has reviewed the preliminary FY 2010-11 biennial budget provided by GCMRC and BOR and is forwarding that budget to AMWG along with a list of concerns for AMWG consideration and feedback. This recommendation is based on the Budget Development Process approved by AMWG at their August 2004 meeting. The TWG will work with GCMRC and BOR to develop a final budget recommendation for FY 2010-11 and a proposed workplan over the summer; incorporating AMWG input on the "issues of concern", further considerations based on the draft workplan (provided by GCMRC before June 8, 2009), and other considerations.

TWG recommends the annual operations hydrograph for this water year be the MLFF with fall steady flows in September and October.

TWG recommends that the "Issues of Concern" be resolved and either incorporated into the budget or documented in writing why such is not appropriate. TWG requests either AMWG concurrence with the TWG recommendations on the "Issues of Concern" or further direction.

River Stage and Archaeological Sites

MOTION: approved by vote of 12 yes/1 no/3 abstain; 13 voting

The TWG recommends to the AMWG that the existing virtual shorelines generated by HEC-RAS model are good predictors of river stage and are reliable predictors of the

inundation of archaeological site surfaces. However, river stage is not the only consideration employed for determining which archaeological sites need to be treated. Other proximate, secondary and tertiary causes must be considered in determining archaeological site condition and the need for treatment. Additional modeling is necessary to evaluate which combination of variables has the most explanatory value in assessing current site condition. The current monitoring and treatment of archaeological sites should continue while the utility of alternative models (i.e. geomorphological) is investigated.

Management Actions

Motion 1: approved by vote of 11 yes/3 no/2 abstain; 14 voting

The TWG requests that the Science Advisors develop a report on Management Actions from other programs which describe the transition from research to management. This should be developed in coordination with the TWG Chair, TWG Co-Chair, and Chief of GCMRC. The report should be provided to the TWG at its next meeting and a presentation should be provided. The SAs should also be available to present this to AMWG at their late summer meeting (likely in August).

Motion 2: approved by consensus

The TWG requests that AMWG consider the policy implications of management actions. This could look similar to an in-and-out committee, involving interested parties that are familiar with the legal and policy framework of the program. This could either be a TWG or AMWG committee and could involve a mix of individuals from all parts of the AMP. We are looking to AMWG for guidance on how to, and if we should, further pursue the question of management actions.

Agenda items dropped to be covered on our conference call:

1. Results of Science Advisors/GCMRC meeting with Carl Walters (:30) - Dave Garrett
2. Sport Fish Stocking Consultation for State of Arizona (:15) - Glen Knowles and Bill Persons
3. Science Advisor Staffing Report (:30) - Dave Garrett

Agenda items dropped and their fate:

1. Schedule TWG meetings: we'll do this via email, next meeting is June 22/23, 2009 in Phoenix
2. Conservation Measures Update: this will be provided at the AMWG meeting in April, materials from that will be available to the TWG via the website.
3. Ad Hoc Group Clean Up: we'll try this again at the next meeting under old business.