

Minutes of Technical Work Group Meeting
January 11, 1999

FINAL

Presiding: Robert Winfree (Chairperson)

Committee Members Present:

Mark Anderson, USGS
Clifford Barrett, CREDA
Kerry Christensen, Hualapai Nation
Dave Cohen, Trout Unlimited
Wayne Cook, UCRC
Wm. E. Davis, EcoPlan Assoc./CREDA
Kurt Dongoske, The Hopi Tribe
So. Paiute Consortium (by Brenda Drye)
Christopher Harris, ADWR
Norm Henderson, GCNRA
Amy Heuslein, BIA

Rick Johnson, Grand Canyon Trust
Robert King, UDWR
Tom Latousek, American Rivers
Phillip S. Lehr, CRCN
Bruce Moore, USBR
Clayton Palmer, WAPA
Pueblo of Zuni (by Loren Panteah)
Bill Persons, AGFD
John Shields, Wyo. State Engineer's Office
Robert Winfree, NPS/GCRA
Fred Worthley, CRBC

Committee Members Absent:

Alan Downer, Navajo Nation
Don Metz, USFWS

Andre Potochnik, GC River Guides
Randy Seaholm, CWCB

Alternates Present:

Debra Bills, USFWS
Kelly Burke, GC River Guides
Brenda Drye, So. Paiute Consortium
Loren Panteah, Pueblo of Zuni

Alternate For:

Don Metz, USFWS
Andre Potochnik, GC River Guides
So. Paiute Consortium
Pueblo of Zuni

Other Interested Persons Present:

Mary Barger, WAPA
Gary Burton, WAPA
Nancy Coulam, USBR-SLC
Shane Collins, WAPA
Steve Gloss, NRC
Barry Gold, GCMRC
Nancy Hornewer, USGS
Jeff Jacobs, NRC
Steven Lloyd, USBR

Ted Melis, GCMRC
W.L. Minckley, NRC
Tom Moody, Grand Canyon Trust
Anthony G. Morton, USBR
Jacqueline Murphy, USBR
James Wescoat, NRC
Randy Peterson, USBR
Larry Sibala, BIA
Jeff Sorensen, AGFD

Recorder: Serena Mankiller, GCMRC Secretary

1/11/99: Convened: 1:11 p.m. **Adjourned:** 3:58 p.m.

MEETING OPENING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Welcome: Robert Winfree, the Chairperson, convened the meeting and welcomed committee members, member alternates, and guests. A quorum was present.

Review of Agenda: The Chairperson reviewed the final agenda. Approval of November 16-17, 1998 minutes was deleted (previously approved). The revised agenda was approved by the group.

Attendance Sheets: Distributed.

Review of Minutes: Minutes of December 8, 1998 were not yet completed. They will be available for review as soon as possible.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

AMWG Charter Renewal: The AMWG Charter renewal was filed on December 29, 1998, and is effective for two years. A copy will be made available to the TWG and posted on the USBR web site.

TWG Chairperson: Robert Winfree and Bruce Moore are drafting a list of Chairperson responsibilities. Bruce Moore will finalize the responsibilities document and distribute it to the TWG in February 1999. The assistance of an outside facilitator is being considered. The TWG discussed using a facilitator for the upcoming AMP Strategic Plan meeting. A USBR facilitator would cost less than a public type of facilitator.

REVIEW OF AMWG AGENDA ITEMS AND TWG RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategic Plan and Goal of AMP: Robert Winfree drafted a list of issues discussed at the December 8, 1998, TWG meeting and during the Interagency Cooperation River Trip. It was distributed to the AMWG with a cover letter from Stephen Magnussen. The TWG Chairperson and Co-chairpersons plan to draft a response which includes TWG positions regarding the issues. Robert Winfree will inform the AMWG at its meeting on January 12, 1999, that these types of issues prevented the TWG from reaching agreement on the 2000-2004 Strategic Plan and will request assistance in resolving them. Scott Loveless will be present at the TWG's AMP Strategic Plan meeting February 4-5, 1999, to give advice and legal opinion. It is planned to ultimately draft a policy document for guidance and future reference to better enable the TWG to focus on its technical responsibilities rather than debate policy issues. A suggestion was made to revisit the CRSP roles and responsibilities document. The TWG

discussed four alternatives and voted to address the scope of the program issue first, then address the strategic plan. Only the issues that arise within the strategic plan that need to be addressed will be addressed (Vote: In Favor: 14; Against: 2). The intention is to get to some resolution on the scope of the program and then move forward with the strategic plan and address issues in it that hinder the process. The group wishes to retain flexibility and recognizes that there are other unresolved issues not contained in the strategic plan.

Recommendation: At the February 4-5, 1999, meeting, the TWG members should come prepared with the list of issues from the river trip, issues they feel are basic program guiding issues, and have recommended language prepared which supports your position. The TWG shall be provided a copy of the issue papers in advance of the meeting.

FY2000 Monitoring and Research Plan: The TWG needs to know the scope of the program. The AMWG should address the policy issues.

Resource Criteria Report: The resource criteria report was distributed to the TWG. (Attachment 1a "Draft Report: Beach Habitat Building Flow Resource Criteria: A Process Document, December 7, 1998" and Attachment 1b "Draft Report: Beach Habitat Building Flow Resource Criteria Analysis for January-July 1999: Analysis Methods and Materials for BHBF Recommendation, December 7, 1998). It reviews the scoring of the resource effects from a BHBF for January-July. AMWG had charged the TWG to finalize and implement the resource criteria and expanding BHMFs up to power plant capacity and other months. Barry Gold stated that the least effect is the January-March time frame. The most impact begins in April and continues through July. There are no show stoppers for a 44,000 cfs flow for 2-4 days in March-April. The managers will need to decide if the impacts are acceptable. Nothing contained in the analysis prevents the TWG from recommending to the Secretary to conduct a flood and an evaluation of the effects. GCMRC will present the revised resource criteria and resource analysis information to the AMWG.

Recommendation: The TWG recommended to accept the resource criteria evaluation for WY99, and plans to finalize the criteria and conduct an analysis. The intent is to make a recommendation based on the resource analysis before the hydrologic trigger is met to enable the Secretary to make a decision without coming back to the TWG.

Location of GCMRC: Barry Gold stated that Stephen Magnussen distributed a memo to the AMWG last week regarding a permanent organizational location for GCMRC. Mark Schaefer will present the plan and informally ask the AMWG's opinion about the options.

State of Natural and Cultural Resources in the Colorado River Ecosystem, 1998 Draft Report (dated 12-9-98) (Attachment 2): Barry Gold asked the TWG if the report being available on the internet is acceptable. It is acceptable except to those members who do not

have access to the internet. Kurt Dongoske stated that the report does not yet contain information about the current condition of cultural resources. There are some compatibility problems with printing it out in hard copy form. GCMRC will note these comments and the TWG may provide additional comments. The report is intended to be used as an online reference. TWG members without internet access will receive a hard copy of the report.

Fall Maintenance Flow: Randy Peterson will present the information, move that process forward and come to closure. A technical analysis will be done over the next month and the TWG will be provided with the information. No decision by the TWG is needed.

WY99 BHBF: The TWG was tasked to do compliance and determine alternatives including a BHBF between power plant capacity and 90,000 cfs, between 1-14 days, including fluctuating flows and evaluating effects on erosion, between January-July, possibly higher flows August-November associated with tributary input. They were also tasked to ensure compliance is in place for a WY99 BHBF up to a maximum of 42,000 cfs subject to hydrologic and biological criteria to support such a flow. The TWG needs to make a recommendation to the AMWG for or against a flood, subject to hydrologic conditions. If The TWG recommends for a flood, the group needs to decide if the beach/habitat will benefit, the resource analysis, and purpose and design (including compliance if necessary). There would be a beach sediment habitat benefit for having a flood. A disadvantage of not having a flood would be increased export of channel stored sand. The TWG discussed the issues at length. The group voted in favor of a 44,000 cfs flood, for 2-4 days in March-April, subject to compliance issues and timing, that the AMWG charge the TWG and GCMRC with exploring the research elements to include a study of the flood and post-flood water release regimes (whatever may be appropriate), which may include load following, steady flows or whatever the hydrology dictates. (Vote: In Favor: 18; Against: 3.) The USBR will seek a letter of concurrence from the FWS. Negative feedback was expressed regarding implementation of load following (after a BHBF) in WY99. (Attachment 3 distributed to TWG prior to this meeting, memo from S. Clayton Palmer dated 1-8-99 "Comments on GCMRC draft review of "Moody/Cook" proposal.).

WY99 BHBF Funding: Clayton Palmer proposed that if the hydrologic trigger occurs and a BHBF is planned for WY99, that WAPA and the USBR attempt to reprogram funds for the scientific experiment. A suggestion was made to first review the GCMRC budget, but it was argued that this budget has already been prioritized and does not include post-flood research. The issue was not discussed further at this meeting.

AMP Budget and Programming: Bruce Moore will present the TWG-approved budget protocols document, which has information about the sequence of budget activities and timing. We are currently on schedule for the 2000 budget, and slightly off schedule for 2001. The Lake Powell budget follows the same protocols. We will request AMWG approval of the document.

FY2000 Monitoring and Research Plan: Barry Gold will explain that because the strategic plan was not approved, approval was not accomplished on a FY2000 plan. The budget had been approved in July 1998. Meetings are set in February to reach closure on the detailed work plan. GCMRC will then issue its RFPs.

FY2001 Budget: Barry Gold stated that GCMRC will ask to index the GCMRC budget to keep in line with contractor and inflationary increases. This will assist with FY2001 budget planning. It was suggested that the AMWG be requested to assign this task to the TWG.

Operational Releases: Clayton Palmer stated that Dave Sabo will make the presentation on the issue of regulation flows. This item is a follow up from the AMWG meeting in July 1998. The document discussing the resolution of the issue has been distributed to the TWG. The document does not address all of the issues, including data source and weekend flows. It is planned to address those issues after the regulation flows issue has been resolved.

Annual Report to Congress: Bruce Moore stated that completion of the annual plan is currently behind schedule. He and Barry Gold are finalizing a draft for comments from the AMWG, and would like to incorporate appropriate comments and finalize it. The TWG approved this procedure for the 1999 Report to Congress.

SAB: Barry Gold will inform the AMWG that the TWG previously approved GCMRC to solicit candidates to fill the panel. It will also evaluate if the compensation is adequate.

GCMRC Staffing and 1998 Expenditures: Barry Gold will report on the close out of the 1998 budget. The GCMRC achieved a balanced budget for 1998. He will inform the AMWG that some activities were deferred to FY99 in order to keep the FY98 budget within its defined limits, and these funds will need to be carried over to FY99 to complete the activities. Dr. Gold will also present current and proposed staffing for GCMRC.

Lake Powell Split: Norm Henderson will present what has been accomplished over the past six months in developing a conceptual program. He will explain the separation of white, gray and black issues, temporary placement of \$325,000 as a quality of water item in the O&M revenue budget, development of a process to place the IN's in defined categories, a process for approval on development of the program, and incorporation of that program into the GCMRC annual and strategic plan. The TWG recognizes that the IN split is not yet done as AMWG had tasked.

Science Symposium: Barry Gold will inform the AMWG that the GCMRC will host an AMP Science Symposium in February 1999.

NRC Contract: Barry Gold will advise the AMWG that the final report is not due until May 1999. Many issues requiring resolution soon are also being reviewed by the NRC. He will ask if

General Key to Adaptive Management Program Acronyms

ADWR - Arizona Department of Water Resources
AF - Acre Feet
AGFD - Arizona Game & Fish Department
AGU - American Geophysical Union
AM - Adaptive Management
AMP - Adaptive Management Program
AMWG - Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Work Group
AOP - Annual Operating Plan
BA - Biological Assessment
BE - Biological Evaluation
BHBF - Beach/Habitat-Building Flow
BHTF - Beach/Habitat Test Flow
BIA - Bureau of Indian Affairs
BO - Biological Opinion
BOR - Bureau of Reclamation
CAPA - Central Arizona Project Assn.
cfs - cubic feet per second
CRBC - Colorado River Board of California
CRCN - Colorado River Commission of Nevada
CREDA - Colorado River Energy Distributors Assn.
CRSP - Colorado River Storage Project
CWCB - Colorado Water Conservation Board
DBMS - Data Base Management System
DOI - Department of the Interior
EA - Environmental Assessment
EIS - Final Environmental Impact Statement
ESA - Endangered Species Act
FACA - Federal Advisory Committee Act
FEIS - Final Environmental Impact Statement
FRN - Federal Register Notice
FWS - United States Fish & Wildlife Service
FY - Fiscal Year (Oct 1 to Sept 30 each year)
GCD - Glen Canyon Dam
GCMRC - Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center
GCNRA - Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
GCPA - Grand Canyon Protection Act
HBC - Humpback Chub (endangered native fish)
HMF - Habitat Maintenance Flow
HPP - Historic Preservation Plan
IEDA - Irrigation and Electrical Districts Association of Arizona
IN - Information Need (stakeholder)
IT - Information Technology (GCMRC program)
KAS - Kanab ambersnail (endangered species list - snail)
KAWG - Kanab Ambersnail Work Group
LCR - Little Colorado River
LCRMCP - Little Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program
MAF - Million Acre Feet
MA - Management Action
MO - Management Objective
NAU - Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, AZ)
NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
NGS - National Geodetic Survey
NHPA - National Historical Preservation Act
NPS - National Park Service
O&M - Operations & Maintenance (USBR funding)
PA - Programmatic Agreement
PEP - Protocol Evaluation Panel
Powerplant Capacity - 31,000 cfs
Reclamation - United States Bureau of Reclamation
RFP - Request For Proposals
RPA - Reasonable and Prudent Alternative
SAB - Science Advisory Board
SWCA - Steven W. Carothers Associates
TCD - Temperature Control Device (for Glen Canyon Dam water releases)
TCP - Traditional Cultural Property
TES - Threatened and Endangered Species
TWG - Glen Canyon Technical Work Group
UCR - Upper Colorado Region (of the USBR)
UCRC - Upper Colorado River Commission
UDWR - Utah Division of Water Resources
USBR - United States Bureau of Reclamation
USFWS - United States Fish & Wildlife Service
USGS - United States Geological Survey
WAPA - Western Area Power Administration
WY - Water Year (a calendar year)