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SMP Work Group

12/8/2014

10am – 3:00pm

Conference Call Line: 1-866-541-2318

Passcode: 6191202

Attendees: Ed Suppes (Uncompahgre Valley Water Users), Paul Maudlin (farmer & Delta CD), Theresa McGovern (Natural Resources Conservation Service), Ralph D'Allesandro (Delta CD), Charles McMurdy (Montrose County Farm Bureau), John Sottolare (Reclamation), Allen Distall (Bostwick Park), Ken Leib (US Geological Survey), Barb Osmundson (Fish & Wildlife), Steve Schrock (No Chico Brush), Dave Dearstyne (NRCS), Dave Kanzer (Co River District), Dave Brown (USGS), Paul Kehmeir (farmer), Brent Uilenberg (Reclamation), Sonja Chavez de Baca (Se Task Force), Matt Malick (National Park Service), Steve Miller (Co Water Conservation Board), Jenny Ward (Reclamation), Suzanne Paschke (USGS)

10:00 – 10:05 am **Introductions and Discussion of Agenda**

10:05 – 10:30 am **General Updates**

Lower Gunnison Basin RCPP Application Status

- River District lead partner. Another delay on selection process to early January. Four focus areas \$20 million dollar request. Leverages Reclamation commitments and existing FOA dollars committed for project that are currently underway.
- Search for State NRCS Conservationist: Hopefully to have person in place by late January or early February.
- Question: Does DK want STF to write a letter?

2015 Salinity Basinwide FOA – Colorado & New Mexico Informational Meeting

- **January 27th** listening session scheduled for **Delta (1pm – 4pm)** tentatively at the US Forest Service Office. Purpose – explain program overview and get input from water users (identify needs of water providers) to incorporate into the FOA. Working on concept of possibly letting more than one ditch company put in a single application for a joint project. They would have to agree to work together, but wouldn't have to combine into a single company. One entity would have to take responsibility to oversee the project.
- John should know what minimum salt load threshold is for a proposal by mid-late April.
- Steve Miller will be given time to present.
- Offer: River District could help with food (snacks and drinks).
- Some in the group were interested in knowing what percentage of ditches in the Lower Gunnison have 500-1000 tons of salt loading and what percentage have 1000-1500, etc.
- Result of DCD meeting: CWCB Grant for engineering support in the 2015 FOA. The due date has been extended to January 15th. 3-4 ditch

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companies and several agencies at the meeting. After the initial applications are in, the DCD wants to help keep people moving forward by having another meeting. They plan to have more publicity.

- Recommendation: Do significant public outreach (cold calls, emails, newspaper).
- Action Item: Can conservation districts receive copies of the salt loads of the different ditches? John will check with Kib on this item. Group did recognize the value of the request from the CD's. They could help bring people to the table.
- Action Item: John will schedule the location of the January FOA workshop as soon as possible.
- DK Note: There are USGS publications that identify the salt loads.

Selenium Task Force Items – no separate items to report.

10:30 – 11:30 am

Subcommittee/Team Updates

Technical (John Sottolare, Lead)

- Still missing an NRCS participant. Todd Bolt – new specialist at the State Office (person to consider).
- Action Item: Theresa will forward request up to Mike Collins. Group thought local preferred.

Education & Outreach (Sonja Chavez de Baca, Lead)

- Septic system modeling impacts
- 3 articles
- Matrix for evaluating areas in which to conduct E-O (areas with biggest bang for the buck)

Science/Research (Dave Kanzer, Lead)

- Septic system study (Barb says we may have someone at EPA that is interested).
- Action Item: Science Team needs to look at monitoring for presence of septic system. Part of the context study.
- Planning to do some more work with nitrate.
- Also some work being done in groundwater study (isotopic tracers).
- Action Item: Steve wants a prioritized list with references to the Science Plan. We don't need to keep it to \$500K as additional funding request can be rolled to future years. Steve needs to know by 18-19th December.
- Action Item: Steve M also needs a letter from SMP manager with approved list.

11:30 – 12:00 pm

Discussion Items

Review, discussion and approval of recommended projects for SCTF support.

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- Ken distributed list from USGS on recommended items based upon USGS priority which may or may not be the priority of the SMP WG.
- Add to the list of discussion items “domestic water use” – Project 7. SCTF request for \$15K.
- Action Item: “tracer study” – follow up with NPS. Ken talked with Matt Mallick. He’s interested but wants to talk in more detail with group.
- DK List: 1) Applied domestic water, 2) Third year of soil sampling to support next round of column study laboratory analysis, 3) working with Steve Campbell to update model with data from Campbell – Ken said process underway and data is being exchanged.
- 1) Groundwater report – characterize larger groundwater network. This will be formal SIR report. Cross reference to sections of the Science Plan. In the future, could add presence or absence of pharmaceuticals as presence or absence of septic. Could get funding assistance from EPA.
- 2) Soil sampling – cont into a third year. There are some logistics to work out cause involves use of Lincoln lab and extensive list of items analyzed. Chuck would submit request to National Lab to continue to run. We’d have to hire someone to do field sampling (we’d pay for this part). Recommendation to get help from Dave D, Dave Noe and intern.
Action Item: SMP Group needs to facilitate having funding available for soil sampling. Have DD work with Alisa to flush out the scope of project. Alisa will take the lead. Suzanne will have to check with Alisa’s schedule.
- 3) USGS will get their staff to collect extra sample bottle for analyzing speciation of Se. We do not NEED to have this data, but extremely helpful for various different reasons and at a reasonable cost.
- Steve Miller – if we need time to develop scope for something, put on list as “scope being developed”.
- 4) Suspended sediment – specific to four sites in critical habitat.
- 5) Quarterly groundwater level fluctuation levels. Have a volunteer to monitor. Dave wants to be sure that we train more than one person so that if someone leaves we have a back-up.
- 6) Bostwick Park Water Balance Study: Loss of several thousand acre feet that USGS could not account for. USGS hasn’t published. They can do a presentation to us. Helpful to do detailed cross section of geology. DK wants to have table include comments on how this fits with NPS, how it relates to other on-going activities.
Action Item: Have USGS with NPS to move forward a proposal (due 30th). Would have to focus on Red Rock Canyon area.
Action Item: Schedule meeting with the Science Team with Matt for first week of January 5th. Sonja will send out a doodle poll. Other agenda items may be added for a longer meeting.
- 7) Missing selenium load. Synoptic on Gunnison through Delta. Detail from synoptic could identify reaches that loading is coming from. Also

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helpful to model. Complements mixing zone studies.

- May need to have brief phone call by next week (early on **the 17th – 1pm. Week of the 12th as back-up**) to review updated draft so that Steve can have information he needs by Thurs evening. Main goal is to have complete memo for SCTF funding for 2016 (July 2015 – June 2016) to Steve Miller.

8) Add fish tissue sampling funding – Barb will be on Science Team call with some information on amount of actual request.

9) Monitoring and sampling analysis – DK will double check with Perry.

10) BMP – Monitoring of soil moisture seems to be Perry's interest.

11) BMP- Trash screens? Action Item: Sonja, work with UVWUA to see if there is a suitable site in UP that benefits multiple landowners.

Request to make Cal Poly study publicly available. Sonja said and Ed confirmed that her understanding is that Steve wants to present the information to his board and the shareholders before making publicly available on the internet.

Break at 12:10 – 1:10pm

12:00 – 1:00 pm

LUNCH BREAK

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Discussion Items (continued)

Continue discussion of any remaining projects recommended for SCTF support

- Sonja: Follow up with Perry on treatment mats with gravel pit operations and whether he still has an interest in putting forth a CIG proposal.
- Action Item: Ask Jedd to give us an update on the status of the RMP and the selenium section in the RMP at the next meeting.
- Action Item: Have Ken do a presentation to SMP WG or Science Team on Phase II of the Montrose Arroyo Study.

Review and/or discussion of additional recommended SMP Action Plan Updates

- Done with entire group on overhead at the mtg. Updates being done by John S. Group went over and offered suggestions and comments for the 2015 SMP Action Plan.

Recommendations for 2014 Annual Report to FWS

- Group also went over and offered suggestions and comments for revising and updating last year's report in order to get it ready for the FWS.

The next SMP Workgroup Meeting is scheduled for 01/22/2015, 9:00am – 12:00pm at the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association Headquarters
601 N. Park Avenue, Montrose