

Tom Karier  
Chair  
Washington

Frank L. Cassidy Jr.  
"Larry"  
Washington

Jim Kempton  
Idaho

W. Bill Booth  
Idaho



Joan M. Dukes  
Vice-Chair  
Oregon

Melinda S. Eden  
Oregon

Bruce A. Measure  
Montana

Rhonda Whiting  
Montana

October 4, 2007

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Lynn Palensky

**SUBJECT:** Committee discussion of regional coordination funding proposal FY 2008-09

**ACTION REQUESTED:** None at this time.

**BACKGROUND:** As part of the Council's FY 2007-09 funding recommendation to Bonneville, interim, one-year funding levels were established for the five coordination projects placed in the basinwide category. The total funding for the five projects was \$2,481,044. The Council then committed to further review of the work prior to approving funding for FY 2008-09. The Council placeholder for the out-years was \$2,351,044. The funding decision by Bonneville for these projects was \$2,481,044 in FY 2007 but reduced to a placeholder of \$2,052,515 per year for FY 2008-09 (equivalent to FY 2006 funding levels for all regional coordination). Above and beyond the placeholder amount, Bonneville agreed to an additional amount for regional coordination for Upper Snake River Tribes. While these placeholders exist, we encouraged the sponsors to build an appropriate budget based on *needs* rather than try to work within a pre-determined budget. The point of our year-long review was to assess the what, who, why, and how much for regional coordination activities. This will all be presented to the Committee at the Council meeting by the sponsors.

The excerpt below is from the Council FY 2007-09 funding decision letter:

The Council will conduct a review of historical spending and current obligations by Bonneville to support regional coordination activity. The review will also include an outline of regional tasks that are appropriate for Bonneville funding for agency and tribal participation. The Council has established a "regional coordination placeholder" in the Basinwide projects category pending the completion of its review. Five project proposals that involve regional coordination activities are subject to that placeholder and have no budget recommendations at this time. The Council will work expeditiously to complete its review, possibly at its November 2006 meeting. Upon the completion of the Council's

review, the Council will make its final project funding recommendations for regional coordination activities for the FY 2007-09 period.

When the FY 2007 funding decisions were made in November of 2006, Council members asked staff and sponsors to work on defining what regional coordination activities are, who would do them, and what the cost of those activities would be. Since then, representatives from the five regional coordination sponsor organizations, the Council, Bonneville, and the Upper Snake River Tribes have been meeting regularly to develop a long-term proposal for the Council that describes appropriate regional coordination activities and needs. The group has developed a “definitions” white paper that includes a definition of regional coordination, the adaptive management framework for which the coordination is based, and how each type of entity fits into this framework. The group intends to use the paper for two reasons: First, to use as supporting documentation for the more detailed workplans and budget request for FY 2008 & 2009; and second, to use as a basis for program amendment recommendations. The definitions paper is not attached, but will be distributed on or before the Council’s meeting date.

The five sponsors of coordination projects and a representative from USRT will present the definitions paper for discussion. This will be followed by individual budget requests for FY 2008 and 2009 by each of the sponsors, including the proposal from the Upper Snake River Tribes for organization start-up costs. The proposals will include a work plan and will be based on the activities necessary for regional coordination as the group has defined it. If the workplans become available prior to the meeting, I will forward them by email to the Council members, otherwise, they will be presented verbally and in writing at the meeting.