



Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council



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February 3, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members, Fish and Wildlife Division

FROM: Bill Bradbury, Fish Committee Chair

Subject: Fish and Wildlife Committee Planning Update

There are several major projects the Committee is undertaking – this memo is intended as an update about who will serve as our lead Council Member on the various tasks before us.

The “O&M bow wave” – Bill Booth

Operation and maintenance of many ongoing projects will take a bigger and bigger bite out of our program dollars. Member Booth has volunteered to look at the “bow wave”.

He has scheduled a "brainstorming session" on the O&M project for 9:00 - 11:00 am, Thursday, February 5th at Council offices in Portland. In attendance will be Tony Grover, Mark Fritsch, Terry Morlan (if available), Bill Maslen and Bill Booth. Other F&W Committee members are welcome to attend if available. If you would like your state staff to participate, that's fine too. The goal for the session is to come up with some options and recommendations which will be presented for discussion at the February 10th Fish and Wildlife committee meeting.

The task will extend beyond that February committee meeting and Member Booth will continue to lead the Council's efforts at implementing the Committee and Council's recommendations.

Existing program review to find savings - Jennifer Anders

Jennifer's effort involves reviewing our existing projects to find savings both to support our current programs and our proposed new efforts. In our 2014 F&W Amendment we say Bonneville should "fund any new fish and wildlife obligations from identifying savings within the current program and as necessary, from additional expenditures."

Member Anders will help us identify an overall target for savings, working with BPA and other partners, to assist Bonneville in financing unaddressed but needed Program work. We reserve the right to ask Bonneville to step up with a greater investment, but we are serious about capturing savings wherever possible to have the credibility to ask for more funding from BPA, if we find that necessary.

Reintroduction above Chief Joe & Grand Coulee; Research - Tom Karier

Member Karier will serve as the Washington council member on the proposed UCUT committee overseeing reintroduction feasibility.

Tom will spearhead the effort to revise and update our Fish and Wildlife research plan. The F&W Committee is seeking a more rigorous design and implementation of research activities, but we first need to update and approve our current plan before reviewing current research projects implementing a revised plan.

Oversight & Outreach - Bill Bradbury – Chair F&W Committee

Biological objectives for adult salmon and steelhead are shaping up as a long-term undertaking in partnership with the state and federal fish and wildlife managers, tribes and other parties. If successfully executed, the Council and NOAA/NMFS will be combining separate but parallel initiatives into an integrated effort of truly regional objectives. Both Phil and I have participated in meetings with NOAA and other parties and we hope to see these efforts coalesce in the near future. If we are unable to join efforts, we still have the work called for in our revised program.

Other tasks in our revised program include non-salmon species (eulachon, sturgeon, and lamprey); threats to investments from invasive species, predators and toxics; the wildlife advisory committee and the HEP subcommittee; the annual forum with regional coordinators; high level indicators; and floodplain habitat strategies. All these tasks and biological objectives will require staff time and perhaps the assignment of a lead council member. I will wait to potentially assign any lead until these tasks develop further.

Phil Rockefeller – Chair Council as we develop 7th Power Plan and implement 2014 F&W Amendment. Chair Rockefeller will continue as our lead on the Ocean Forum.

F&W Staff Workplan – we should revise staff time commitments to enable addressing the Council priorities articulated in the new Program.

For instance, in terms of project reviews, as we developed the 2014 Fish and Wildlife amendment and allocation of staff resources, it became clear that it is not necessary for staff do a hands-on field review of every project implementing the fish and wildlife program.

However, to implement the new priorities may well require challenging the assumptions and value of certain projects currently being funded. So we may really **need** project reviews of projects that we have reason to think could be scaled back or wound up, where savings may be achievable. This will require a targeted use of staff resources - not simply a full project review of every project.