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September 15, 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Member
Interested Parties

From: John Shurts

Subject: Basinwide coordination, m&e and research projects: summary of issue resolution

This is a list of issues the Council worked through as one part of the effort to arrive at its draft project funding recommendations for the Basinwide group of research, monitoring and evaluation and coordination project proposals, along with an informal summary of how the Council addressed each issue in its draft funding recommendations. Associated with this memo is an Excel spread sheet depicting the Council draft funding recommendations.

The basic facts of this Basinwide category:

- \$32.644 million per year allocation, for a three-year total of \$97.932 million
- 147 proposals in three categories, totaling nearly \$75 million per year
- The Council identified a review group, called the Mainstem Systemwide Review Team (MSRT), to take a first cut at reviewing projects and recommending priorities. The MSRT recommendations included 15 projects in the coordination/support category totaling \$11.4 million in the first year; 14 projects in the regional monitoring and evaluation category totaling \$12.6 million in the first year; and 16 regional research projects totaling \$8.4 million in the first year.

The Council's draft funding recommendations for this group total \$29.572 million in FY07; \$29.735 million in FY08; and \$28.537 million in FY09, for a three-year total of \$87.844 million. Left unallocated at this time are \$3.072 million in FY07; \$2.909 million in FY08; and \$4.108 million in FY09.

ISSUES

1. Basinwide projects reserve. One key overarching issue has been whether the Council should seek to reserve a significant amount out of the Basinwide allocation, to have available as the Council finalizes funding recommendations and identifies further needs for regional monitoring and evaluation, data management, fish passage science and analysis, and similar needs, including any needs identified in the upcoming FCRPS BiOp. And if so, what should the amount be, and should parts of it be specifically dedicated to particular categories or simply left as a total overall reserve?

Council draft recommendation: The Council left unallocated at this time \$3.072 million in FY07; \$2.909 million in FY08; and \$4.108 million in FY09, for a three-year total of \$10.088 million. The Council did not specifically dedicate this reserve to any one or more purposes. A portion of the unallocated balance will be available for the Council to make final project funding recommendations for fish passage science and analysis. Others portions may be needed to finalize funding recommendations in the following two categories, or to fund future BiOp needs, or for other purposes.

2. Data management. Projects: Streamnet (198810804); NHI (200307200). The issue has been whether to have interim funding recommendations while the Council works during the next year to determine the appropriate scope and funding for program data mgmt.

Council draft recommendation: Interim funding pending Council resolution of data management priorities. See programmatic issue write-up. Interim budget amounts are largely at level funding.

3. Monitoring and evaluation. Projects: CSMEP (200303600); ISEMP (200301700); PNAMP (200400200); PIT-tagis (199008000); CSS/PIT-tagging spring and summer Chinook (199602000); smolt-monitoring (198712700), coded-wire tag projects (198201301-04). Similar situation to data management projects -- the issue is whether to have interim recommendations while the Council works out the appropriate scope and funding for program regional m&e through the m&e framework effort and the requirements of the new FCRPS BiOp.

Council draft recommendation: Interim funding pending Council resolution of regional m&e framework. See programmatic issue write-up. Interim budget amounts are largely at level funding.

4. Tagging projects. PIT-tag and coded-wire tag (and any other tagging) projects. This is subsidiary to the last issue. ISRP programmatic comments called for a review of all the tagging projects, their need and cost.

Council draft recommendation: Review all the tagging projects.

5. Coordination -- agencies and tribes/CBFWA. Projects: CBFWA budget (198906201), Spokane (200710600), Kalispel (200716200), UCUT (200710800), CRITFC watershed coordination (199803100). Main issue is whether to fund collective fish agencies and tribal coordination with one contract out of one allocated amount (through the CBFWA budget?), or to allow separate funding and contracts for fish and wildlife manager coordination. Even if the Council chooses the latter path, the concept in the program is for a collective role for the fish managers to coordinate together their activities and perspectives and needs vis-à-vis the program. So even if the funding is handled separately, the tasks and purpose ought to remain the same -- coordination funding for collective fish manager coordination on program-related activities.

Council draft recommendation: Interim funding; tentative recommendation to fund separate coordination proposals. Staff to return to Council with recommended tasks and deliverables, for resolution of final project recommendations at October meeting.

6. Fish passage functions.

Council draft recommendation: No recommendations at this time. A portion of the unallocated balance in the Basinwide category will be available for the Council to make final project funding recommendations for fish passage science and analysis.

7. Delayed mortality study (200304100). This is a \$4m project request over three years. As shown by the BiOp remand discussion, if were possible to learn more about delayed mortality, research to that end would be a high priority. Even if so, another question is whether this is the project for that purpose.

Council draft recommendation: Fund at reduced level (\$2.939 million over three years). Ask sponsor to confirm during comment period what work can be completed at this budget level.

8. Snake River fall chinook salmon life history investigations (200203200). Important work that is also increasing significantly in cost. Total spent over 04-06 was \$440k. Project proposal was for \$12.5m over three years. Is a lesser amount sufficient to capture the important elements of this work?

Council draft recommendation: Fund at \$1 million per year. Ask sponsor to confirm during comment period what work can be completed at this budget level.

9. Ocean research. Projects: shelf study (200300900); acoustic tracking (200311400). Two projects asking for \$6.3m over three years (\$1.8m for shelf study; \$4.5m for acoustic tracking). Questions have included whether management benefits are to gained from research and the cost.

Council draft recommendation: Fund shelf study project at \$575k over three years. Fund acoustic tracking project at \$2.25 million over three years. Ensure this level of funding is adequate to meet the needs of the scope of work for the latter project as

approved last year by the Council. Both projects had an ISRP final recommendation of “Fundable in Part”; address ISRP concerns during contracting.

10. Bull trout projects. Projects: Gorge/Plateau/Blue Mtn project (199405400); bull trout passage through Snake River dams project (200714600). MSRT recommended at approx. 1.4m over three years. Issue has been whether this work is a mainstem priority right now.

Council draft recommendation: Do not fund.

11. Lamprey. Projects: lamprey in Columbia basin (200716500) (MSRT at \$1.5m over three years); drift nets to monitor larval lamprey (200721600) (MSRT at \$270k over three years). Issues have been whether this work is a mainstem priority right now; whether to fund new lamprey work without coordinated review of program’s lamprey work; whether lamprey work in provinces is of more value, although there are priority/budget issues with the province lamprey projects, too.

Council draft recommendation: Fund lamprey project 200716500 at \$200,000 over three years. Fund only development of sampling protocol. Ask sponsor to confirm during comment period what work can be completed at this budget level. Do not fund drift net lamprey project (200721600).

12. Develop progeny marker for salmonids (200203000). This project is one of a number in the program involved in evaluating supplementation. The proposal request was 960k; the MSRT reduced to 819k. In line with ISRP programmatic comments, and with ongoing workshop efforts to evaluate supplementation, it may make sense to hold this at an even more reduced level.

Council draft recommendation: Fund at \$529k total over three years. Ask sponsor to confirm during comment period what work can be completed at this budget level.

13. Columbia Basin Bulletin (199800401). Issue has been appropriateness for program funding. MSRT zeroed it out.

Council draft recommendation: Fund at \$150k per year. Look for sponsorships and other sources to supplement funding.

14. Two new projects added to the MSRT recommendation: shad impact study (200727500); evaluation of live capture/selective fishing gear (200724900). Two new proposals in 2007 that MSRT declined to recommend.

Council draft recommendation: Fund shad study at total \$400k over three years. Complete study in those three years. Fund live capture/selective fishing project at a total of \$500k over three years. Fund \$130k in first year to develop sample design, and

submit to Council. Funding for implementation in out years dependent on favorable Council review of study design consistent with ISRP comments.

16. Innovative project placeholder. ISRP programmatic recommendation.

Council draft recommendation: Reserve placeholder for innovative projects at \$1million per year over all three years.

17. Kelt reconditioning project m&e (200306200).

Council draft recommendation: Fund at \$1.105 million for three-year total. Complete the experiment by end of the three years.

18. Gas bubble monitoring (199602100).

Council draft recommendation: Fund \$51,933 as three-year total. Need to revisit prior to expiration of state water quality waivers (review during fall of 07).

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