

Wildlife Advisory Committee

February 12, 2015

9:00 a.m.

Council Office - Portland

Attendees: Peter Paquet, Karl Weist, Kelly Singer, Sam Rushing, Robert Stephens, Chris Wheaton, Carl Scheeler, Mark Fritsch, Philip Key On Phone: Paul Dahmer, Hannah Dondy Kaplan, Kerry Berg, Norm Merz, Loren Kronemann, Alan Wood, Sonia Hall

Minutes

Agenda item: Approval of minutes from January 15th Meeting **Presenter:**

Discussion:

Several comments were provided prior to the meeting with corrections and additions to the draft minutes.

Conclusions:

The corrected minutes for the January 15th 2015 meeting were approved.

Action items

- ✓ The January 15th minutes are now posted on the WAC Website (<http://www.nwcouncil.org/media/7148719/wac-jan-meeting-minutes.pdf>).

Agenda item: Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative **Presenter:** Tom Miewald, Sonya Hall

Discussion:

Tom Miewald (USFWS) and Sonya Hall provided a briefing on the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GNLCC). They provided general background information on the project and more specific information on Columbia Basin Partners Forum and the Arid Lands Initiative. They described the project priorities and progress to date. It was stated that the freshwater/riverine component has not been fully brought into the process yet and they are still determining priorities for this component before it is coordinated with the terrestrial component. Committee members asked who was involved in setting the priorities and whether Subbasin Plans were part of the process. Tom provided the following link which provides more detailed information on the project and priorities (<https://griffingroups.com/file/group/11609/all>).

Agenda item: Discussion of Detailed Workplan and Schedule for Deliverables **Presenter:** Peter Paquet

Discussion:

The Chair presented the draft detailed workplan showing milestones and products necessary to accomplish the 3 tasks (definitions for operational and secondary losses; methods for addressing the losses; and the resolution of issues associated with the HEP) assigned by the Council by October, 2015. The chair stated that comments on the draft workplan are welcome and asked that they be provided prior to the upcoming March 12th meeting. A link to the work plan is included below.

Action items

- ✓ To open the document click on the link and then hit the download button in the upper right corner. Open the file in your PDF viewer. (<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2h4cc4x9ozxufyq/WAC%20%20Timeline%202015%20%282%29.pdf?dl=0>)

Agenda item: Operational and Secondary Losses Definitions **Presenter:** Peter Paquet

DRAFT

Discussion:

The group continued its discussion on defining operational and secondary losses, with a goal of bringing a recommendation to the Council for its consideration at the April, 2015 meeting. This resulted in the following draft:

WAC Markup – 2/12/15

Operational and secondary impacts are generally expressed over time and will continue for the life of the hydropower system operation. These impacts have not been fully assessed and may not have been mitigated for as part of construction and inundation losses.

Operational Impacts - Direct changes in river hydrology, hydraulics, sediment and nutrient availability and/or transport that cascade throughout the ecosystem to alter physical and ecological processes, vegetation communities, which directly affect fish and wildlife communities. Operational impacts can also occur within reservoirs as a result of fluctuating water levels which cause shoreline erosion.

Secondary Wildlife Impacts Losses - The ~~indirect~~ changes in ecosystem functions ~~directly~~ attributable to the construction and on-going operation of the hydropower system, such as food web alterations, contaminant concentrations in reservoir sediments, and other systemic changes stemming from the construction, inundation, and/or operation of the hydropower system. Secondary ~~impacts~~ losses also include the changes in human land uses within the historic floodplain enabled by dam operations. All of these changes cause direct ~~effects~~ reductions in wildlife communities and/or their habitats.

Conclusions:

The chair requested that members make any comments, additions, suggestions, etc. by March 5th so that they may be shared before the March 12th meeting.

Action items

✓ Comments on draft definitions

Person responsible

Members

Deadline

3/5/15