

**Summary**  
**Transition Work Group Meeting**  
**August 29, 1996**  
**Phoenix, Arizona**

Stephen Magnussen, the Secretary's designee, was in attendance.

Bruce Moore, Manager, Resources Management Division, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Region, welcomed the group to the Transition Work Group meeting. Participants introduced themselves (Attachment 1).

**Status of AMWG Charter - Steven Lloyd** -- Since our last meeting, Reclamation sent out copies of the draft charter for review. We received many appropriate comments and most have been incorporated into the draft charter. On July 15, we sent the charter package to the Washington Office and it is in the process of being reviewed there. At this time we are making changes to the draft charter addressing two issues: 1) Conflict of interest for workgroup members interested in doing monitoring work, and 2) the scope of work related to upstream issues. The primary focus of the Grand Canyon Protection Act and the EIS has been to protect downstream resources. The question has arisen as to whether the workgroup can look at upstream issues related to changes in operation of the dam.

**Lake Powell - Tom Moody** -- The issue of performing work upstream of the dam came up in Management Objectives Subgroup and was left unresolved. As we were preparing the charter, we did some research on the law and discussed the issue with people who were involved in the drafting of the original legislation. During discussions on the geographic scope, it was obvious that there was not consensus. However, it was pretty much agreed that if there is a nexus to a downstream impact from something happening in Lake Powell, then some work in Lake Powell maybe be justified.

Due to a number of concerns, it was decided to craft some additional charter language and get comments back from interested parties. Robert Lynch and Tom Moody were asked to draft mutually acceptable text changes and supply them to Reclamation.

**Proposed Reclamation Appropriation Language - Joe Hunter, Rob Elliott** -- CREDA has been involved with Congressman George Miller and Senator John McCain in writing legislation to be included in the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. This legislation would require Reclamation to provide budget, staffing and program information on the costs associated with the Adaptive Management Program. There was considerable discussion regarding this matter and the majority present took exception with CREDA taking the legislation route without first bringing it to the Transition Work Group (TWG). Joe explained that "the language doesn't impact the group, but actually adds a measure of protection against someone unexpectedly changing the program." He apologized for not talking with everyone but time was short and he felt that he needed to act quickly. He didn't think it was a big deal and was surprised by the

controversy it had stirred up. He explained that this process will allow us and the Congress to know what the Secretary is proposing in his budget. Rob and others in the meeting expressed their concern and asked that in the future we discuss topics of this nature in the TWG meetings prior to acting.

**Status of GAO Audit - Steven Lloyd** -- On August 2, 1996, we received a portion of the draft audit from the GAO. We returned comments to them on August 16. On August 19, GAO held a formal exit conference with Reclamation and at that time we discussed our comments on the report. They indicated to us that they would incorporate the majority of our comments into the document. They gave us their schedule and said they would be sending the draft report to the Secretary. The Secretary received it on August 27 and gave it to Reclamation for review with final comments due on September 4. The final report should be done by September 30. If anyone wants copies, you'll have to contact GAO directly as Reclamation doesn't have any control over the document. Once it is issued, then it is considered a public document and anyone can request a copy.

**Status of Record of Decision - Bruce Moore** -- The Record of Decision was signed October 9.

**Temperature Control - Dave Trueman** -- Dave presented some overheads which showed progress in the setup and calibration of a temperature model for the selective withdrawal studies. Once calibrated and fully tested, the model will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of selective level withdrawal to meet downstream temperature needs. The study is scheduled for completion later next year.

Dave Trueman and Dave Wegner have also reviewed progress on the primary productivity studies being conducted by Northern Arizona University. These studies are to evaluate changes that might be expected in the river's primary productivity by warm water releases from the dam. Field sampling should be completed by October. In the past, field sampling by GCES looked at populations below the dam. One aspect of this study is to sample upstream to see what species might populate(seed) the downstream environment. Key to this study are laboratory tests to measure shifts in populations due to warming of the water. The river environment will be simulated in the laboratory using water taken from below the dam (Lees Ferry). These tests should be completed this winter. Analysis of the sampling and laboratory tests is scheduled for FY-97 along with draft and final reports.

**ESA Update - Christine Karas** -- One of the major concerns is the Fish and Wildlife Service's determination on the status of sufficient progress. It is Reclamation's opinion that sufficient progress is being made. Reclamation has met with the Service and discussed the issues. A guide to Reclamation's path to meeting sufficient progress can be found in its letter of response to the Biological Opinion.



**Transition GCES/GCMRC - Bruce Moore** -- Bruce explained that Dave Garrett was on the agenda to discuss the transition process but unfortunately had to leave early due to illness. Many knew that In October responsibility for the monitoring program execution passes from Dave Wegner to Dave Garrett. Reclamation and Dave Garrett have put together a transition plan which has been evolving for the last 3-4 months. One of the decisions that affects most people on the TWG is the decision to continue the contracts/coop agreements signed in fiscal year 1996 and modify them to meet 1997 work. Some of the feedback we heard is that information wasn't getting out on what we were doing. Therefore, a handout was prepared which talks about budgets and mentions some issues concerning personnel. We are currently finalizing the plan and holding meetings to try and resolve the issues. The transition is going well and both these men should be commended on the work they've been doing. (Attachment 2)

**Beach/Habitat Building Test Flow - Dave Wegner** -- Dave reported that they're on track to get all the reports done. Fish work is being done by Arizona Game and Fish. This weekend a team will be on the river to continue field work on how the releases affected the beach habitat. Some videography is being done along with some donated work from the Dept. of Energy for thermal sensing. Draft reports are due September 30. We're in the process of making sure that all necessary information gets transferred to the GCMRC.

**GC Monitoring and Research Center -- Bruce Moore** -- Bruce passed out copies of the schedule (Attachment 3). Bruce explained that Dave Garrett is still an NBS employee but will come under the USGS effective October 1. When GCMRC was originally set up, the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science in a memorandum established a 2 year period of review to determine which entity should house the GCMRC. The memorandum also contained a requirement for a management team to be comprised of individuals from Reclamation, USGS and the Assistant Secretary's Office to oversee program responsibilities. Officially, Dave reports to the NBS but eventually he will be a USGS employee. Mark Anderson stated that his understanding was that Bob Hirsch would be Dave's boss and that Dave would be a USGS employee on October 1. The relationship, while not standard is working well.

**Cultural Resources - Signa Larralde** -- Identification and evaluation of significant cultural resources are the first two steps mandated by the PA. Cultural resources within the river corridor have been identified and evaluated by NPS and the tribes. The third step is monitoring. The NPS and tribal monitoring programs are continuing into FY 97. The NPS annual report, which includes a report of cultural resources monitored during FY 96 as well as remedial actions taken and a FY 97 workplan, was distributed to the PA signatories for review in early August. The tribes are submitting tribal monitoring reports for FY 96. The final mandate of the PA is preparation of a historic preservation plan (HPP) which details how cultural resources will be managed in the river corridor. The PA signatories will be meeting in Flagstaff on October 9-11 to produce a second draft of the HPP, which we intend to distribute for review in mid-November.

**Wrap-up - Bruce Moore** -- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21. Possible agenda items for that meeting may include:

- GC Monitoring and Research Center
- Temperature Control Device
- Adaptive management (Kai Lee will present - has done a lot of work with adaptive management in the Pacific Northwest)
- ESA
- Workgroup Charter
- Cultural Resources
- Introduce new employees of the GCMRC

Bruce said he would send out the charter language drafted by Bob and Tom when received. The meeting adjourned at 3:45.

#### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 = Roster

Attachment 2 = Proposed Reclamation Appropriation language

Attachment 3 = Schedule of work by GCMRC



conflict of interest

amy Husten

Joe Waleston

jerry leadbetter

bruce tolber

Bob Elliot

harter - gave update on status of Charter

Should there be a tie to downstream issues  
then

secretary's actions under the GKPA -

Review

### status of audit

- late Friday August 2 we received from GAO a partial copy of their draft report. we reviewed that document and sent copies those comments to GAO on August 16<sup>th</sup>. GAO asked that that that we not share that document with others.
- on August 19<sup>th</sup> GAO held their formal exit conference ~~270 pg~~ with Reclamation via video conference. ~~at that time the gave Reclamation their latest schedule~~

last Monday <sup>GAO</sup> they sent the Secretary a copy of the final draft with a request for comments by next Wednesday of next week.

page 1

- 270 pg

- conclusion -

- 83% of stakeholders surveyed.

page 2

is - recap of schedule on esa

read reclamations response ~~with~~ when reading BO

AMP, LTP, Experimental flows, sep 30, fish data  
integration report, Habitat Maintenance flows.

selective level outlet

anab ambersnail.

Don Metz

allow flycatcher BO Draft. Send with summary

written document needed explaining the process  
for the TCD with respect to ~~the~~ Nepa (how much and  
when)

monitoring and Research Center (transition)  
Bruce Moore gave discussion - Dave Garrett fell ill  
labor day weekend aerial photo graphs to occur  
document beach habit building flow. ???

extended - - - to 1997.

monitoring & Research Center - / introduce employees  
TCD  
presenter  
charter -  
cultural Resource