

Completion of NEPA Process/ROD - Gordon Lind – The ROD will be forwarded to the Secretary for signature after the GAO audit is completed. He noted that the Glen Canyon Dam Final Environmental Impact Statement received an award from the Society of Technical Communication.

Responding to comments

...approved, will establish a formal Federal Advisory Committee.

Subgroup Reports

Transition Monitoring - Dave Wegner — All proposals have been independently reviewed and forwarded to the Grand Canyon National Park. All contracts are on track. The Solicitor's review was held up to do the Government furlough. Activities related to the biological opinion are on track. GCES technical reports are being finalized, with more than 45 forwarded to peer review journals. The NRC has completed its third review which focused on use of science in the GCES program. Data collected during the GCES is being placed into the GIS and MIPS. (technical reports are to be accompanied by computer discs for inclusion into the data base). All technical reports are being submitted to the NTIS.

He reviewed the work being completed in preparation for the test flow, noting that the test will begin on March 22 with 4 days of steady 8,000 cfs releases; upramping at 4,000 cfs per hour will begin on March 26, first by releases from the generators, followed by releases from the hollow-jet tubes until approximately 45,000 cfs is reached. Downramping will begin on April 2, followed by 4 days of steady flows at 8,000 cfs. The Little Colorado River inflow should not be a factor because of the low snowpack. If Mother Nature interferes, contingency plans have been developed. He noted that study plans have received reviews by 3 independent peers and will be forwarded to the Grand Canyon National Park to obtain research permits. An extensive logistics plan has been developed, a new logistics contract is being completed, and safety plans have been discussed will be emphasized. During the high releases, most of the scientists will be in base camps, with most research being conducted before and after the test flow. Contracts are on track, with modifications to existing contracts. Noting that the budget for the test flow is \$1.5 million, all test flow work is being integrated with transition monitoring. Reports and documentation on the test flow are to be accompanied by a computer disk. A technical video and integrated report documenting the science will be completed. A report analyzing the preliminary results from the test flow will be provided at the next TWG meeting. Rafter and fishers will be notified of the high flows.

Rick thanked Dave, his staff, and all involved with planning the test flow.

Management Objectives - Bruce Moore — Management objectives have been prepared under each resource item in the FEIS. Management objectives will be the framework of guidance for the Research Center. The purpose statement is attached (attachment 2) and will be discussed at the May 21 TWG meeting.

Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center - Dave Garrett — He noted that the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center has been established, and he has been named Acting Director. He discussed his scientifically based background. The focus of the Center will be adaptive management, with a credible ecosystem science approach. He is an employee of United States Geological Service, reporting to the Director, and also reports to the Assistant Secretary of Water and Science. The research agenda will be set by the Adaptive Management Work Group. The science of the Research Center will be reviewed by an independent group. Funds for the Center will be from WAPA through Reclamation. Contracting will be provided by Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region. He is attempting to keep overhead below 10 percent. A proposed Charter for the Center is being prepared and will be discussed at the May 21 TWG meeting. A subgroup will be formed to assist with development of the Center.

Razorback Sucker Meeting, January 11/12, 1996 - Christine Karas — During the meeting, a broad overview of razorback sucker habitat was given, then discussion was narrowed to habitat in the Grand Canyon. The meeting focused on should and/or can the razorback sucker be managed for in the Grand Canyon. The answer was yes. A recovery plan for the razorback

sucker in the Colorado River has not been prepared. Scientists made a list of issues; i.e., communication, non-native fishes, impacts to other natives, development and implementation of a management plan, recommendations for more research. Frank Baucom noted that it was hoped that this meeting would bring together the scientists working with the species to better determine how to recover the species, with the end result being a Memorandum of Understanding to begin the recovery process. Bob Lynch asked how many fish were in the Grand Canyon, noting that there is no genetic base for recovery, and the money for recovery of the razorback sucker could be better spent in other locations. Christine noted that this issue has been discussed at the meeting. She indicated that the scientists discussed whether resources should be spent in other geographic locations for recovery of the razorback sucker; but the purpose was to provide an opportunity for scientists who work with the species to come together to share information. Although no recommendation for recovery in the Grand Canyon was made, they learned more about available possibilities. Bob noted that available funds will determine prioritizing the reintroduction of razorback suckers in specific locations in the Colorado River. Frank noted that it is prudent to include the razorback sucker in the adaptive management process.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 21, at the LaQuinta.

Agenda items:

- Selective Withdrawal Structure
- Beach/Habitat-building Test Flow
- Management Objectives
- Research Center
- Status of GAO Audit

Attachments:

Attachment 1 -- Attendee List

Attachment 2 -- Management Objectives Purpose Statement