
BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE

Solution Team

February 25, 2003

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

US Forest Service Office
21905 64th Avenue West
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Settlement Process Update – Cross Resource Workshop
3. Preparation for FERC call/ FERC call
 - Flood Control Update
4. Action Items
 - PDEA Update
 - HYDROPS Update
5. Working Groups:
 - What's Hot?
 - Status of Studies in Working Groups
6. Schedules/Timelines
7. Other?
8. Set March 25, 2003 Agenda and Evaluate Meeting

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U.S. Forest Service Building
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Mission: By April 30, 2004, the Baker Solution Team will draft a settlement agreement for relicensing of the Baker River Project that best meets the interests of the signatories.

FINAL MEETING NOTES

Note: Call Connie at 425-462-3556 if unable to attend the meeting so she can plan for lunches. Call Lyn's cell phone 425-890-3613 if something comes up at the last minute (on the way to the meeting).

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Team Leader: Connie Freeland (Puget Sound Energy) 425-462-3556, connie.freeland@pse.com

Members Present: Steve Hocking, Keith Brooks (FERC, by phone), Arn Thoreen (Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group), Rob Mohn (the Louis Berger Group), Jerry Louthain (Economic and Engineering Services, for Anacortes, Skagit P.U.D. and Town of Concrete), Marian Valentine (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Steve Fransen (NMFS), Patrick Goldsworthy (North Cascades Conservation Council), Bob Helton (Citizen), Bob Nelson (Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation), Stan Walsh (Skagit System Cooperative), Steve Jennison (DNR), Gary Sprague (WDFW, by phone), Jon Vanderheyden and Rod Mace (U.S. Forest Service), Rod Sakrison (WA DOE), Ed Schild, Kris Olin, Connie Freeland, Joel Molander by phone, and Lloyd Pernela by phone (PSE), Dave Brookings (Skagit County Public Works, by phone), Bruce Freet (Environmental Agreements), Dee Endelman and Eli Asher (Agreement Dynamics), Lyn Wiltse, Facilitator and Mary Jean Bullock, Note-Taker (PDSA Consulting, Inc.).

2003 Solution Team Meeting Schedule

March 25, April 22, May 20*, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, November 25, December 16*. [* 3rd Tuesday because of holidays.]

PME Cross Resource Workshop Schedule

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- Lloyd: Convene meeting of Economics/Operations teamlet to discuss Keith Brook's flood storage working paper.
- Connie: Add Communication Protocol and Process Document to PSE website. Ask Kristen to post schedule information independently from Working Group-specific information.
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- Flood Control – What's the process?

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There might be some flexibility in the timing of the draw down. There was not consensus on this. Marian will follow up with Wayne Wagner to try to get clarification.

We agreed to let the Economics/Operations Working Group continue to wrestle with this issue. We will get a report from them at our March 25 meeting.

Scoping Document 2

Steve H. has sent a draft scoping Document 2 to Connie and Rob for review. He will integrate their comments and get the revised draft out for broader review by March 14.

REPORT ON OLD ACTION ITEMS

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- All let Keith know if they'd like to participate in the flood control teamlet meeting.
- All checked with respective organizations re: single NEPA process.
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- Kris posted the SureTrak Relicensing Schedule on the website.
- Bob H. did a great job categorizing our list of meeting norm items for our review. Thanks Bob!

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There seems to be good cooperation among Louis Berger team members and Working Group members.

HYDROPS Update

Jon distributed a list of specifications used by USFS and Stetson re: critical pieces to have in the evaluation model. They have had discussions re: model requirements across various stakeholder groups. A number of the responses in the right hand column involve modifications PSE is working with Powel to incorporate into the HYDROPS model.

“Model” refers to HYDROPS plus R-2’s Habitat Model. Connections between these two models are critical, because resource effects need to be considered along with economic effects. (The R-2 model needs instream flow data to be complete). There is also streamlining going on to make hard and soft constraints flow more fluidly.

The system is also being modified to accommodate multi-year runs. Next step: Final evaluation will happen after modifications to the model have been completed (hoping for end of March).

Powel is entering into an agreement with Stetson that will allow Stetson to have a copy of the model on one of Powel’s desk top computers (to be housed at Stetson).

WHAT’S HOT IN THE WORKING GROUPS?

Cultural

- Workshop Preparation (PMEs)
- Access

Economics

- Flood control/management
- Model results
- Low Flow “thang”

Aquatics

- Need for substantive discussion re: PMEs
- Need to prioritize study review/rest of work load

Terrestrial

- Frogs and bogs... actually bogs are only luke warm
- Concern with straw man at workshop (participants didn’t create it)

Recreation

- Land ownership
- Cross Resource Workshop
- Study results
- New study requests “yet to be proposed” may not be well received by PSE

STUDIES UPDATE FOR SOLUTION TEAM

Cultural

- TCPs rolling along – research designs by April
- Archaeology field work finishing by end of February

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- Historic building inventory complete
 - Report out and presentation March/April in Concrete

Economics

- R-01 – Low Flow Augmentation from Baker Project – Continuing discussion
- R-02 – Evaluation of Optimal Flood Control Storage in Upper Baker Reservoir – Moving from Study Request to Study Plan
- R-03 – Examination of Spawning and Incubation Flows in the Skagit River below the Baker Confluence during brood year 2000 – Tabled for discussion in March

Aquatics

- Got 8 out of 24 transects done (instream flows)
- A1 – Tributary reports almost out
- A37 – Increased awareness of importance – this will tie to A17

Terrestrial

- Amphibian Study (considering next steps)
- Bogs – Made good progress (Study Plan to be developed)
- Grizzly Bears – Study Plan is underway
- Elk – Study Plan is underway

Recreation

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SCHEDULES/TIMELINES

Kris distributed an updated version of the SureTrak schedule. The updated flow diagram will be sent out February 25. It will also be posted to the website. (*Sent out with draft minutes – Team Leader note*).

In reviewing the overall schedule, between now and April 30, 2004, the timeline for license application, PDEA, and Settlement Agreement are all on the critical path.

MEETING NOTES PROTOCOL

We reminded everyone of the protocol we have re: Working Group minutes. The initial draft notes will essentially be what comes from the facilitator (grammatical and other small, non-substantive edits from team leaders are fine). The exception would be where team leaders were expressly asked by Working Group members to fill in some technical details. Any substantive edits to that first draft from team leader/others will be italicized in the second draft.

PARKING LOT

- Members need to describe their roles in terms of decision-making authority in their organizations (this relates to who would be members of the Policy Solution Team).
- Define a process for delayed resolution (based on incomplete studies).
- Adaptive management:

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- How can we take into account future technology, knowledge, conditions, resources, weather (global warming), etc.?
 - How can we balance licensee exposure?
 - How to enlist recreational users.
 - Define “project induced.” (Teamlet?)
 - Develop public information protocol.
 - Summary Record of Decisions.
 - PMEs listed for each Working Group.

HANDOUTS

- Draft Proposed Actions For Baker River Project – February 24, 2003 (with cover memo) [*Paper and electronic copies sent to all Solution Team members – Team Leader note.*]
- Cross Resource Workshop – Key Conflicts, Key Synergies, Shared Interests/Concerns – The Facilitation Team 2/24/2003
- Baker Relicensing Project, Method for Reaching Agreement – Draft February 2003
- Baker Relicensing Project, Draft Timeline for Reaching Agreement: March 2003-October 2003
- Specification for Operations Model to be Used in Baker Project Relicensing and Current Capability of HYDROPS to Meet the Specification (Revised by Stetson on January 13, 2003; Comments by PSE/Powel on January 24, 2003)
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MEETING EVALUATION

Done Well

- Got out early
- Phone participation was good
- PSE took the bold step/daring leap of distributing draft proposed actions

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- Good analogies (in Cary's absence)

Do Differently Next Time

- Missed Cary, Bill
- Coffee was late – it would be nice if it arrived by 8:45 a.m.
- Lunchtime “rustling” of paper bags made it hard for phone folks to hear us
- We need to mind phone etiquette

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