

MINUTES

100th Meridian Initiative - Columbia River Basin Team Meeting

**June 10, 2010
Red Lion at the Park
Spokane, Washington**

Attendees were:

Stephen Phillips, Chair, PSMFC	Roger Mann, Independent Economic Analysis Board
Eric Anderson, WDFW	Madelyn Martinez, USACE
Pat Bloomer, Spokane County Deputy	Kaylani Merrill, EcoAnalysts
Rick Boatner, ODFW	Blaine Parker, Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Bill Christman, Chelan County PUD	Megan Payne, EcoAnalysts
Jessie DePriest, Spokane County Deputy	Allen Pleus, WDFW
Leif Elgethun, Clean Lakes, Inc.	Jim Ruff, Northwest Power & Conservation Council
Amy Ferriter, IDA	Scott Smith, USGS
Erik Hanson, Montana Dept. of Agriculture	Bob Sola, Spokane County Deputy
Paul Heimowitz, USFWS	Albert Sutlick, USACE
Keith Holliday, National Park Service	Mark Sytsma, Portland State University
Jim Irish, BPA	Scott Szoke, Spokane County Deputy
Carson Keeler, Grant County PUD	Tom Walker, Spokane County Deputy
Dave Lamb, Coeur d'Alene Tribe	Steve Waste, USGS
Scott Lund, US Bureau of Reclamation	
Kate Wilson, the Pend Oreille BC	

Stephen Phillips called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

The minutes from the February meeting were adopted.

Paul Heimowitz led the discussion on draft proposed changes to the Columbia River Basin Rapid Response Plan. Many of these changes were a result of lessons learned during the Snake River incident from last November/December. MAC members were requested to provide input into the chairmanship of the MAC (**See February 2010 CBR Team minutes** http://www.100thmeridian.org/Columbia_RBT.asp). On the issue of who should chair the MAC, should there be a co-chairmanship (e.g. the state where the incident occurs and USFWS), or should the state assume the chairmanship?

Amy indicated that in a situation like the Snake River incident, Idaho would want to be chair of the MAC. Paul explained a balance is needed between local response and regional response, and the MAC is focused on the regional coordination and not the incident response at the local (state) level. The chair of the MAC is also more or less a facilitator of the meeting.

Paul also went over other potential changes to the RR Plan, including moving the Verification Objective 3 up to Objective 1; agency communication on sharing preliminary reports; and the

process for standing down the incident. There are also proposed changes to the in the appendices on environmental compliance and NOAA/USFWS roles in permitting.

Given significant differences at the staff level regarding MAC roles and communication protocols, Paul will be contacting MAC members to set up a conference call to discuss the proposed changes.

Jim Ruff mentioned the need for EPA to be involved in the permitting process as they will likely need to approve chemicals used in eradication. Jim mentioned that BOR at their lower Colorado projects have still not gotten their FIFRA Section 18 permit for Zequanox. Jim emphasized the need to obtain EPA's involvement so they can assist us with advance permitting issues. Paul and Jim said they would follow up with EPA staff contacts (Seattle).

The next rapid response exercise (September 20-21) will be a good place to get EPA involved.

Scott Smith said that the WA DOE needs to be involved in the exercise as they are developing their Aquatic Invasive Species Management General Permit.

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/invasive.html>

Discussion then turned to verification (positive) of an infestation. Amy said we need this clearly spelled out and Idaho's position is two independent microscopies and two independent PCR analyses. There was much discussion on this topic and the need for an agreed upon western level positive definition and failing that, at a minimum, a CRB positive definition. This issue will be discussed at the upcoming MAC call and proposed language will be floated for a regional definition.

The proposed September 20-21 CRB Plan Rapid Response Exercise was discussed. The consensus of the Team was that we will proceed with a table top exercise for Lake Roosevelt and hold the meeting in Spokane. We will postpone the next field exercise until spring 2011. The 2009 Snake River incident showed several areas that need improvement in our response capability. One of our concerns is the current lack of permitting capability for a potential eradication. Therefore we will focus this exercise on permitting and eradication of an incipient mussel infestation. The outcome of further discussion on MAC Group roles/protocols will determine to what extent it makes sense for them to participate. A steering committee was set up for the exercise.

Roger Mann of the IEAB gave a talk on the Review of Economic Risk Associated with the Potential Establishment of Zebra and Quagga Mussel. The final report from this study (document IEAB 2010-1) can be found at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/>

Leif Elgethun of Clean Lakes, Inc. (<http://www.cleanlake.com/>) gave a talk on the FlowCAM (which detects invasive mussels through the birefringence imaging particle analysis process). Leif also brought and demonstrated a FlowCAM unit. Paul asked how much time do you save in cost per sample versus conventional microscopy – Leif said he estimated the unit would pay for itself in 5 years (running a maximum number of samples).

Monitoring databases were discussed. Scott Smith described USGS /WSU Columbia River Basin Aquatic Invasive Species Database (<http://crbais.psmfc.org/>) that is being hosted by PSMFC. Mark Sytsma described the PSU database as well <http://www.clr.pdx.edu/projects/volunteer/zebra.php>. Requests from agencies for 2010 monitoring data in the CRB will be sent out soon.

Amy discussed the Idaho watercraft inspection program. A listing and map of the stations as well as up to date inspection data can be found at http://www.agri.state.id.us/Categories/Environment/InvasiveSpeciesCouncil/Inspection_Stations_2010.php

Amy said they are getting great cooperation from law enforcement. Kate Wilson, the Pend Oreille Inspection station manager talked about some of the issues they are dealing with at the field level, including boats with dead attached mussels cannot be impounded (per state statute).

Rick Boatner discussed the Oregon Inspection program. The program has 5 regional teams (though they need more). There has been good support from the public for the program.

Eric Hanson reported on Montana's boat inspection at boat ramps and highways. The inspection stations were set up over Memorial Day. Officers are doing invasive boat checks all year in combination with safety check, Port of Entry station and sheriff's staffs are also getting invasive species training. Sport groups (e.g. walleye club) have also agreed to volunteer to undertake inspections. Eric discussed that with the 2009 legislation, boats from AIS states need documentation of an inspection.

Eric Anderson discussed WDFW inspection efforts and the mandatory inspections that will be conducted periodically throughout the summer. Eric also mentioned that Washington will be working on new AIS legislation for the 2011 legislative session.

Dave Lamb reported he would be ramping-up training of tribal folks on AIS prevention as he is Level II trained. The tribe is also undertaking substrate monitoring in Lake Coeur D'Alene.

Bill Zook gave a Watercraft Inspection program (WIT) update (See Attachment 1).

Paul said that they were hoping for additional federal funding to continue to support PSU Nutria work.

Eric Hanson gave an update the Flathead Basin AIS plan. It includes a rapid response section <http://www.flatheadlakers.org/announcements/2010/Draft5.pdf> They are looking at different funding mechanisms for the plan including setting up a water quality district. The Plan will be tied to the MT AIS state plan. Eric said that the Park Service boat entering Glacier National Park will be inspected this year. Paul mentioned that Flathead Lake may be a good potential site for the 2011 rapid response exercise.

Eric Anderson updated the group on the Capitol Lake New Zealand Mudsail infestation. The Lake is still closed to recreational activity and still infested.

Paul said that USFWS is still working on NZMS prevention at hatcheries. A mudsnail conference may in the works in cooperation with the University of Idaho.

Scott Smith reported that Noah Adams and USGS are working on a manual for AIS dive monitoring protocols.

Bill Christman reported that Chelan County PUD is monitoring for mussels and they are open to collaborative efforts. He also reported that the PUD is testing fish screens coated with a copper sulphate paint (quasi anodized).

Carson Keller said they are doing plankton monitoring for veligers.

Al Sutlick said they are looking at self certification of boats at their launch ramps.

Madelyn Martinez said she has been investigating permitting processes for rapid response at the project level.

Attachment 1: William Zook, Project(s) Update, CRB ANS Work Group Meeting, Spokane, Washington; June 10, 2010

WIT Training:

- ***Completed major L1 training in the flowing locations Spring/2010***
 - *Nebraska - Game and Parks Commission*
 - *California - Big Bear Municipal Water District*
 - *South Dakota – Department of Game, Fish and Parks*
 - *Oklahoma – USACE, Tulsa District*
 - *Texas – USACE, Fort Worth District*
 - *Missouri – USACE, Kansas City District and Missouri Department of Conservation*
 - *Kansas – USACE, Kansas City District and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks*
 - *Wyoming – Game and Fish Department*
- ***Completed L2 training at Lake Mead***
 - *February 2-3; March 23-24; May 4-5*
- ***Scheduled L2 training for Fall 2010***
 - *October 5-6; November 9-10*
- ***WIT Totals (30 months)***
 - *59 L1 trainings, 3,000 people, 17 states, 120+ agencies/organizations*
 - *12 L2 trainings, 145 Grads*
 - *At least 200 L1 trainings presented by L2 grads, 2,000 people*
 - *4500 copies of training DVD distributed*
 - *Probably the most effective outreach and education program for quagga/zebra mussel prevention ever!*
 - *Need new video*
 - *Retire “major” L1 training in June 2011 in favor of L2 grads and others and new video, continue L2 training*

Commercial Hauler Outreach:

- ***All available lists of commercial watercraft/equipment operators in the western US compiled***
 - *Jim Athearn’s Work in 2007 – over 3,000*
 - *California List from Cal Dept of Food and Ag – over 500*

- *List from NPS, Lake Powell and Lake Mead permit holders*
- *Idaho Inspections*
- *Washington Point of Entry*
- *List pared-down to top 500 by eliminating duplications and concentrating on most recent listings of “active” haulers*
- *Developed on-line survey using “Survey Monkey” program – 18 questions*
 - *Sent initial mailing with survey link to top 500 on April 9*
 - *Only 13 completed surveys as of May 18*
 - *Mailed follow-up letter to generate additional response – June 4, 2010*
 - *Last follow-up could include phone calls if less than 10% return by June 18*
- *Survey results will be used to draft Best Practices recommendations for commercial transport industry working with all involved jurisdictions and some key industry representatives*
 - *1st effort to involve industry reps for rules and adoption options*
 - *Attempt to bring some standardization across jurisdictions*
 - *Increase awareness, protection and compliance within the industry for this important pathway*
- *Best Practices recommendations*
 - *Out for initial review by agencies by end of August*
 - *Second draft to industry and broader review by end of September*
 - *Seek WRP approval and adoption sometime in the winter 2010-2011*

Seaplane BMP's:

- *Working with the Western and National Seaplane associations to develop nationwide BMP's for seaplane inspection/cleaning on “non-impacted” waters (somewhat easy)*
 - *Literature review of existing seaplane standards*
 - *Develop, review and seek nationwide approval of BMP's*
 - *Film 7-10 minute instructional video for pilots (USFWS/PSMFC funded \$5,000)*
 - *Assist the National Seaplane Association in the development of an on-line training for seaplane operators (to be completed by late Fall)*
- *Also, to develop uniform inspection/decontamination and verification protocols and standards for “critical” AIS positive waters (much more difficult)*
 - *Evaluate existing “local” programs (a small number exist; Clear Lake and Lake Tahoe, others?)*

- *Working with state and federal ANS coordinators and the seaplane association, develop at least two feasible alternative programs for critical water/species intervention programs that could have national feasibility and support*
- *Present recommendations to Basin teams and Regional panels*
- *If a feasible national or regional program is developed and approved, seek adoption by ANSTF sometime before the Summer of 2011*