

NWDHH&C CoP
Bi-monthly Conference Call Minutes
17 July 2006
DRAFT

ATTENDEES

Larry Buss - NWO
Bob Buchholz – NWP
Jim Barton – CBWM
Peter Brooks – CBWM
John Heitstuman – NWW
Ken Hansen - NWW
Marian Valentine – NWS
Dan Katz - NWS

1. UOC Volunteers and MSC contact list request for info from HQ

Gary House from HQ had requested 3 MSC primary contacts as well as volunteers to man the HQ UOC.

- Will provide names for each District and 2 Division Offices.
- UOC volunteers will be furnished to Bob B. by each District by 20 July.

2. SME List. Updated call for SME's for GS-12's and GS-13's that missed in first go round. Alan Tool and Bob B. will coordinate in soliciting nominations by 15 August using established resume and checklist procedures. We will then need to get together to screen the submittal to provide to HQ by 8 September. Bob will send the request to all chiefs and coordinate with Alan to verify that he will be POC.

3. Functional Review next steps. Discussed status of Functional Review based on WMB call last week. PDT and Director's Report recommendation to create a new Water Resources organization was rejected. WMB will recommend that cost saving measures identified in Alternative 3/12 and others be used to define cost savings and efficiencies that would result in immediate reduction in budgets by 10-25%. An NWD-wide programmatic, product oriented budget process will be recommended by WMB. There will be no detailed recommendation considered by the RMB at next week's meeting. We discussed next steps and came up with the following:

- H&H chiefs and Water Management should take initiative based on WMB feedback and develop implementation plans to accomplish WMB proposals. We should take control over our own destiny before terms and solutions are dictated to us.
- It was agreed that it could best be accomplished by Basin first and then cross walked between basins to capitalize on good ideas and address those items that cross basin boundaries and to ensure consistency. We felt that we would be more successful dealing with the issues on a basin level first since the two basins are so

different. **Larry Cieslik and Jim Barton will set up meetings as soon as possible within each basin to discuss our next steps and then schedule a joint meeting soon after to cross walk our findings.** Columbia Basin conference call tentatively scheduled for 9:00 to 11:00 on July 27.

- **Programmatic Budget Process** – we discussed and concluded that there are short term and long term processes at play. Short term we are to look for cost savings/efficiencies for the 07 budget and long term we are to reform the budget process with the aim of developing the 09 budget submission on a programmatic basis by next spring.
- One possible first step in developing the budget process is for each office to report their budget process. It is not consistent across Districts and we need to collectively decide on the smartest way to develop an overall programmatic budget without adding more process to what the Districts are already doing.

4. **WM Hiring Freeze.** Implemented by Davis last summer. Still up in air w/Karen D-A. She will want to know that hires have been coordinated between offices. Proposal at June H&H Chiefs meeting was to utilize the new form that is required for General Officer approval of all hires and add a statement stating that it had been coordinated and has regional concurrence in WM community. **Process suggestion:** Branch Chiefs send e-mail to each other containing the hiring justification template and a statement of how it fits into the regional WM structure and ask for concur, non-concur from other Chiefs. If there are any non-concurs, additional discussion may be needed by conference call or follow-up e-mail. **This only needs to be done by Basin so the first meeting mentioned in bullet 3 above should address proposed fills and process. Chiefs come prepared to discuss what positions they need filled immediately.**

5. **Advanced Planning for Fall Trip to ERDC.** Tentative date has been set for week of November 6. We assigned Mark Lindgren as lead for the trip logistics and demonstrations. He will need to work with NWP to develop the model demonstrations. Jim Barton mentioned that due to the proposed budget cuts, they may not have ability to send anyone and may have to participate by conference call. Concern was acknowledged and we will revisit as we get more information on impacts of proposed cuts.

6. **Upcoming Conference Discussion:**

- HydroVision 2006 Conference – Portland, 31 July – 4 August, 2006
www.hcipub.com
- EWRI Operations Management Workshop-Sacramento CA, August 16-18 2006
<https://www.asce.org/conferences/om06/register.cfm>
- Collecting and Managing Hydrologic Data for Effective Water Use Planning – Portland, 15-16 November 2006
<http://www.ceatech.ca/Meetings/Data/>
- COE Infrastructure Conference – Detroit, MI, June 25-29, 2007

7. Upcoming Quarterly Technical Presentation for August. Seattle District has the lead and will develop a topic and publicize in advance. Chiefs are encouraged to promote participation.

8. National Levee Program Discussion. We ran out of time so did not discuss this topic.

Call ended at about 12:10 pm PDT.

Reminder on Meeting Times and Frequencies from June Minutes:

Next face to face meeting will be at ERDC (WES)

- Week of 6 November is tentatively scheduled.
- Focus on Hydraulic Design and Coastal Engineering.
- Rough Agenda Items
 - Set up session with Jack Davis to talk R&D
 - Tour/demo of physical and CFD modeling for fish passage – Mark & Bob
 - Tour/demo coastal model-Jetty Rehab at Mouth Columbia River – Bruce
 - Look into ERDC tour for those interested (CHL, ITL, Env. Lab etc.)
 - Non-structural floodplain.

H&H Chief Conference Calls

- Bi-monthly Conference call for H&H Chiefs
- 1100-1200 Pacific, 1300-1400 Central. 3rd Tuesday of odd months starting July 18.
- Bob will do Outlook invite and solicit agenda topics 1 week prior.

Quarterly Technical Presentations

- Qualifies for PDH credits
- Host District responsible for scheduling/coordination.
- **Schedule:**
 - August 2006 – NWS
 - November 2006 – NWK
 - February 2007 – MBWM
 - May 2007 – NWW
 - August 2007 – NWO
 - November 2007 – CBWM
 - February 2008 – NWP