

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM
Technical Management Team
Process Meeting
February 26, 2003

Facilitators: Donna Silverberg and Jacqueline Abel

The following is a summary of the process discussion between members of the Technical Management Team on 2/26/03. The notes are not intended to be a verbatim account of the meeting nor do they serve as the official “record”. They are intended to highlight discussion points, decisions, and actions.

TMT/IT Guidelines:

Jacqueline Abel, facilitator, did a comparison analysis of the IT and TMT Guidelines and highlighted differences between the two in a handout.

Consensus: TMT discussed the definition of “consensus”, as it is not defined exactly the same way in the two documents. While generally the group felt that the two definitions do align, members agreed to make the following additions to the TMT definition of “consensus”:

- Bring the definition into alignment with the IT Guidelines, and add “strong” objection.
- State that objections not strong enough to be elevated to IT will be documented in the minutes.

A question was raised about how decisions are made when no consensus is reached and then documented. While TMT or NOAA makes the recommendation, the Action Agencies make the decision about how to operate. The group will add some language to the Guidelines that states this.

ACTION: The Action Agencies will put decisions in writing and send them to the TMT chair, who will distribute to the rest of TMT before the next regularly scheduled meeting. NOAA will put in writing the rationale behind its recommendation, and distribute to the group as soon as possible.

Schedule: On page three of the TMT Guidelines is a schedule of weekly operations. The group discussed ways that the schedule could be restructured to allow TMT to make best use of available information and alleviate time constraints.

ACTION: Cindy Henriksen, COE, will ask RFC to either produce model runs by Monday or Tuesday or later in the week, on Thursday, which FPAC can use in its discussions the following Monday or Tuesday. FPAC will discuss the latter possibility. All will keep in mind the importance of “real time” information and how well the current schedule has worked so far this year. There is also a possibility that TMT could meet from 1-4 pm on Wednesdays to review and discuss data released late Tuesday or early Wednesday.

Membership: The facilitation team will contact tribal groups and find out who are the TMT representatives or points of contact. There will be one list of “Designated” members and another for “Points of Contact”.

ACTION: The facilitation team will revise the TMT Guidelines and send a redline version to TMT members by Friday, March 7. TMT will review the revisions and discuss them at the end of the March 19 meeting.

Ground Rules and Expectations:

A change will be made to say that the meetings will start and end on time “unless otherwise agreed to by the group”.

There was some discussion on “tone” of the group. While jokes and sarcasm are an important part of the group dynamic, members would like the facilitator to point out when the tone has not been appropriate in discussions. The facilitator will use her professional judgment in how she points this out, either during the meeting or to individuals after the meeting.

Two bullets will be added to the list of ground rules:

- Be mindful that members are representatives of agencies.
- Separate the people from the problem!

TMT will continue its discussion of ground rules and expectations at the March 19 TMT meeting. There will also be a discussion of whether there should be designated time on the agenda for public comment, and when that should be.

A summary of the facilitation services evaluations, compiled by Jacqueline Abel, was handed out and will be discussed at the next TMT meeting. The group was asked to review particularly Question 3, which asked how the facilitation team can and does assist you in the Regional Forum process.

Next Meeting, March 5:

NOTE: The March 5 meeting has been changed to Wednesday afternoon, 2-5 pm, due to scheduling conflicts.

Agenda Items:

- Water Management Plan Spring/Summer Update
- NOAA Parameters for Maximum Transport
- Low Flow Effects at Bonneville
- McNary TDG Spill Test Proposal
- Chum Emergence Update – Oregon and Washington
- Lower Granite Surface Bypass Collector Update
- Schedule Seining Field Trip