

Draft Minutes of the August 27, 2001 Trinity Management Council Meeting in Sacramento, at the Federal Building, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W- 2620

Present: Joseph Jarnaghan, Mike Orcutt, George Kautsky, and Daniel Jordan, HVT; Kirk Sornborger, and Nick Hindman, WAPA; Charlie Chamberlain and Dave Hillemeier, Yurok Tribe; Tom Stokely, Trinity County; Jim DeStaso, Russell Smith, Donna Darr, and Mike Ryan, USBR; Ralph Modine, Trinity County Board of Supervisors; Neil Manji, DFG; Mary Ellen Mueller, George Guillen and Jay Glase, USFWS; Spreck Rosekrans, Environmental Defense; Paul Olmstead, SMUD; Frank Dimick, Westlands Water District; Scott McBain, McBain and Trush; Curtis Anderson, DWR; Serge Birk, CVPWA; Tim Ramirez, Resources Agency; Pat Frost, TCRCD; Jeff Phipps, WAPA/NCPA; Laurie Fenwood, USFS (arrived @ 9:45).

TMC Members Missing: NMFS

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:42 am. The draft minutes of the July 23, 2001 meeting were distributed, but will be considered for approval at the next TMC meeting due to lack of review time.

There was an executive session from approximately 8:50 to 9:30 am to discuss the Executive Director position. Following the executive session, it was announced that Doug Schleusner has been selected for the Executive Director position. He will start sometime in October.

2. FY 2002 Budget- Scott McBain gave a presentation on a draft budget prepared by himself, Rod Wittler, Charlie Chamberlain, Tammy Newcomb and others. It was based in part on the Adaptive Management workshop held in late June. He presented a handout to all attendees and provided overheads of the document. The documents included different options and assumptions.

There was a general discussion of how to coordinate this process with the federal and state budget processes. Danny Jordan said that the group should be looking toward the FY 2004 budget, which is 2 years out and the current focus of federal budgeting efforts. Mike Ryan said that Reclamation will likely request \$7 million. USFWS may request additional funding as well.

Serge Birk said that the Trinity program should head in the direction of CALFED such that the federal and state budgets could be coordinated, at least for FY 2004.

There was a discussion of prioritizing Trinity River program proposals submitted to the California Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) funding review committee for their consideration during proposal reviews in November. Tom Stokely said that DFG has approximately \$20 million in grant funds for coastal areas available through Prop. 13, SB 271 and the Northwest Salmon Initiative funds from NOAA. It was agreed that Mike Ryan would send a letter to the Director of DFG requesting a list of the project proposals in the geographic area of the Trinity River program so that the TMC could prioritize them.

Jeff Phipps suggested using the CALFED science program to assist in program development such as RFP's, selection of an independent science panel, etc.

The budget is targeted at \$10,150,000. (Includes \$1.15 million carryover from the CVPIA Restoration Fund (CVPIA RF) for Bridges, \$7 million from BOR and \$2 million from USFWS)

Two draft budgets were proposed, one which was balanced and another which was \$2,749,679 over budget.

There was a general discussion on how to proceed at this point in terms of formatting and decisions. No objections were made to the format - it is different from past formats, but reflects the Adaptive Management process.

Scott McBain then went through the list, line by line. There were several questions, suggestions and discussions on various line items.

Danny Jordan said he has concerns with how long the Restoration Program won't be implemented and the schedule will be "slipping". Mike Ryan noted that there has been litigation and Trinity Co. hasn't certified the EIR, therefore there hasn't been as much progress as expected. There are also other permitting issues that need to be dealt with and they take time.

Danny Jordan noted that there is an Interior Solicitor's Opinion which says that the CVPIA Restoration Fund (CVPIA RF) can be used for funding Trinity projects. Mike Ryan said that the Solicitor's Opinion is limited in where the funding can go from the CVPIA RF.

Serge Birk asked if site specific projects can occur without certification of the SEIS/RDEIR? Stokely said he thought they could if there was appropriate CEQA documentation.

Tom Stokely said Trinity County submitted a grant proposal to DFG for \$1.9 million to build the Salt Flat and Treadwell Bridges, and also submitted a \$48,000 grant for non-bridge floodplain improvements engineering, permitting and design (such as "the Little Yellow House" in Douglas City). It won't be known until January which projects will be funded. If projects are funded by DFG, a notice to proceed wouldn't likely occur until June or July, 2002.

Lunch from 12 to 1

After lunch, Mike Ryan reported that he had talked to Ed Solbos about the bridge replacements, if there were no construction contracts to execute, the costs would be \$750,000 for final designs, permitting and final contract preparation. There will be a conference call on Friday to discuss what are realistic costs for bridge work and other mainstem activities, in order to budget appropriate amounts.

Tom Stokely suggested that mainstem construction activities will not likely occur in 2002 because of environmental review, permitting, design and contract preparation. He suggested that rather than focusing on one channel restoration project to construct in 2002, there should be a focus on long term environmental review and permitting for numerous channel restoration projects. He expressed concern about trying to complete too many separate environmental documents concurrently.

Jeff Phipps suggested that all project applicants have an established monitoring program which could be incorporated into every project.

Frank Dimick asked about peer review for specific scientific studies? Scott McBain said there will be a specific peer review committee, as well as workshops. Frank questioned if there was adequate funding for peer review of specific projects. Mary Ellen Mueller said often peer review of journal articles, etc. is often done for free.

Ralph Modine asked if the scientific work being proposed is to improve the Supplemental EIS/Recirculated Draft EIR (SEIS/RDEIR)? Mary Ellen Mueller said that the scientific work is intended to improve our knowledge base for Adaptive Management, not for the SEIS/RDEIR, although it may be relevant to the environmental review process.

There was a general discussion of how to proceed from here. Will it be a directed program or a Request for Proposals (RFP)-directed program?

There were no decisions made. It was agreed that the various TMC members would review the draft budget and that the TMC would make a final decision on the FY 2002 budget at it's next meeting, which will be on Monday, September 17, 2001 at 9 am in Redding. The location will be determined later.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:40 pm