

Meeting Record: Bradford Island

Subject: **Technical Advisory Group Meeting**

Date of Meeting: 5/16/2006

Location of Meeting: Portland District Office, Summit Room

1. Participants:

Corps and Consultants to the Corps (URS):

Mark Dasso, USACE	Mike Gross, USACE	Carolyn Schneider, USACE
John Wakeman, USACE	Kitia Howard, USACE	Ken Duncan, USACE
Chris Moody, URS	Bill Winter, URS	

Agency/Trustee Members:

Bob Schwarz, DEQ	Alex Cyril, DEQ	Paul Seidel, DEQ
Jennifer Sutter, DEQ	Jeremy Buck, US FWS (on phone)	Patti Howard, CRITFC
Greg Smith, USFWS	Jeff Lockwood (NOAA/NMFS)	

2. Introductions and Today's Goals. (*Mark Dasso, USACE Project Manager*).

Mark noted that we are currently between milestones for both the 30% In-water Design and the RI/FS Work Plan. The former will be available about June 16 for review. He said that a working draft of the RI/FS Work Plan would be available about July. Today's meeting emphasizes water quality compliance details and the prospective work window for the In-water Non-time-critical Removal.

A. Minutes of Prior Meeting (Wakeman)

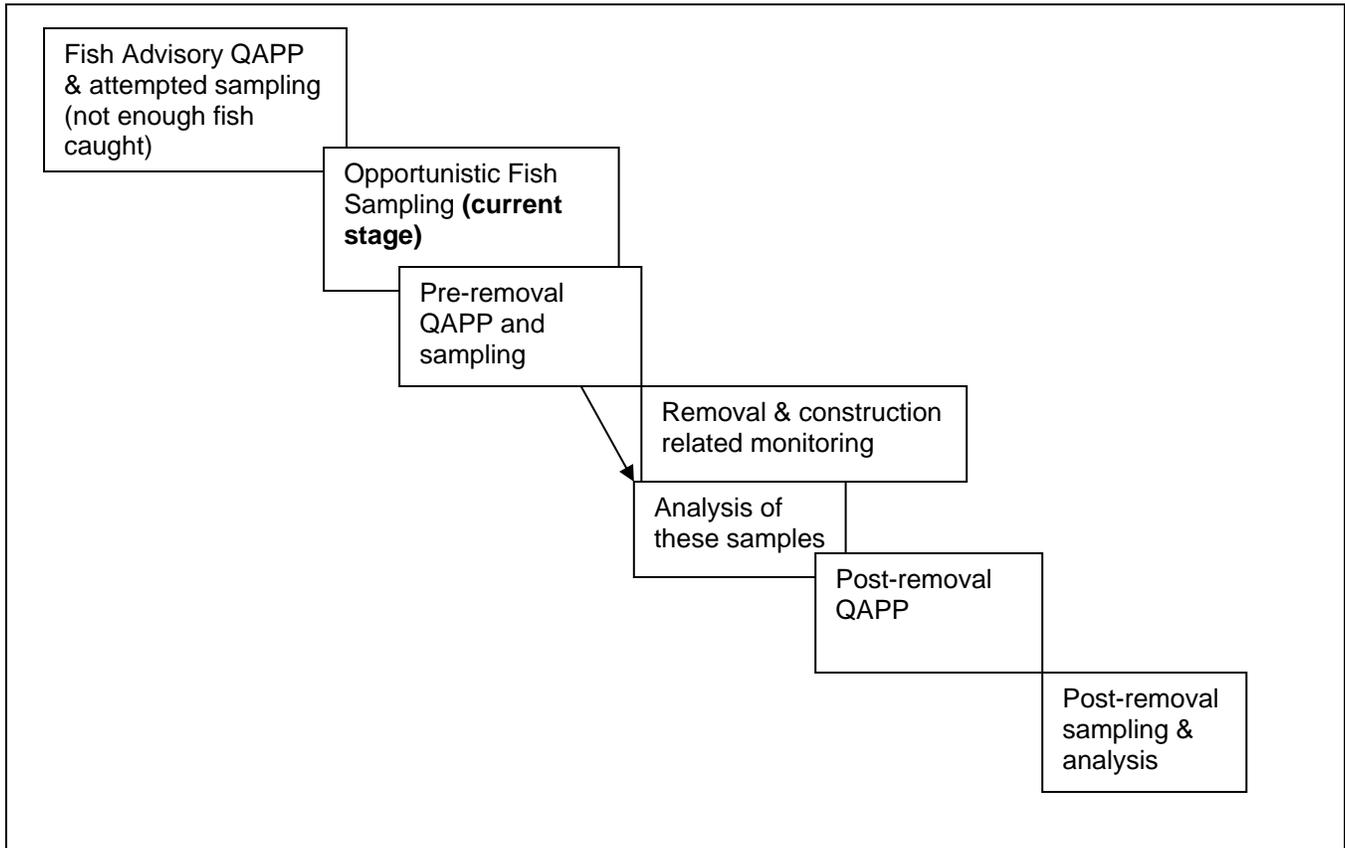
John said that these minutes would be published at the public website. (This has since been done.)

B. Status on "Opportunistic" Fish Sampling Efforts (Howard)

Kitia said that, to date, only 1 sturgeon has been caught, and was below the slot limit so could not be kept. USGS spent 132 hours of effort in the winter without catching any of the other target species, and used up all the funds we had sent to USGS. Evidently, smallmouth may be caught in the winter at the Dalles, but not Bonneville. We are now taking opportunities for collecting fish incidental to others' efforts. At present, we have 33 crayfish, 2 largescale suckers and 1 peamouth chub. These are archived in a freezer at the Dam. BPA is fishing for pikeminnow in the bounty program and we will take individuals as they become available. We are also working with Oregon Bass and Pan-fish Club to get smallmouth, walleye, or the 3 other species mentioned above.

Patti Howard suggested that the Corps utilize Tribal fishing resources, particularly as “in-lieu” sites are nearby. She mentioned Mike Matulevich’s name at CRITFC as a resource to assist in locating the correct people in the tribal fishing programs. Patti also reminded the Corps that the Tribes are very concerned about lamprey and sturgeon, and to be sure that these are collected if possible.

C. QAPPs (Wakeman)



Mark said the sampling to which Kitia referred is technically “outside” the approved QAPP for Fish Advisory Sampling. However, the Corps will prepare a follow-on QAPP for Pre-removal Sampling that will cover this sampling and provide for the selection of fish from those that were caught during during the “opportunistic” period. Bob added DEQ believes it and the Corps can iron out the technicalities of the “opportunistic” phase during the Pre-removal QAPP. This QAPP will be available to the TAG in August for review, so that contracting for sampling may be started early in the new Fiscal Year and so that sampling may be completed prior to the initiation of the construction in February of 2007.

Paul Seidel requested that, as the Corps develops new QAPPs, it identify “new” elements to DEQ to reduce time for review of sections formerly approved by DEQ. We agreed to do this to the extent we can.

John said that there will be another QAPP for sampling to follow the Non-time-critical Removal. There will only be physical (turbidity) and chemical (return flow and surface water) monitoring during the removal action. (Later in the meeting, SPMDs were added.)

D. Discussion

1) Schedule for EE/CA and Action Memorandum

Mark said that the Action Memorandum is similar to a Record of Decision, and that it will be finalized later, after the Design is nearly completed.

2) Tribal Concerns.

Mark said that the three Treaty Tribes with Usual and Accustomed Fishing rights on the Columbia have asked the Corps not to proceed with the Non-time-critical Removal because they have not been funded to participate in the TAG, and (in some cases) wish to hire a consultant to participate on their behalf. He said that the Corps may not legally fund the Tribes for this using Operations & Maintenance funds – it would be illegal. Portland District has attempted to elevate this to Corps' Headquarters, and has also asked Region 10 for assistance in finding funds for this purpose. There has not been any notable progress yet. He requested that the Tribes support the removal action.

3. In-Water Design

A. Schedule and Progress for Design

1) Preliminary results from Sediment and Surface Water Sampling (Moody)

Chris said that DEQ had told us that non-detections for PCB at a practical quantitation limit of 100 ng/L would be acceptable to assure protection in surface water. During removal design related testing, URS performed the "Modified Elutriate Test" consisting of stirring up sediments with 2 mg/kg PCB (a fair representation of average site sediments) at concentrations relevant to the dredging program in water (6% solids), and letting settle for 24 hours to represent physical separation in a holding area. The material was sandy, and most of it separated from the water. Then, the whole overlying water (elutriate) was analyzed. After 24 hours, there were 64 ng/L of PCB in the elutriate. Another test, the Column Settling Test, is being used to select an appropriate settling time to optimize solids separation. This information will be used to design a protective return-flow train.

2) Contracting. Bill Winter said that Cherokee General has been selected, although has not yet been negotiated with. The contractor is used to working at Bonneville, and the Dalles. They will be reviewing the design information if possible to bring their expertise and construction experience into it.

3) Water Quality Certification

The work time for the removal will likely occupy 10-14 days in February of 2007. Alex Cyril said she doesn't expect turbidity to be an issue at 150 ft from the dredging, based on the turbidity seen during the equipment removal. She said that the fish-management agencies also have an input to the decision, and may wish a lesser standard than 100 ng/L. We discussed the use of SPMDs for passive monitoring during the removal event.

B. Biological Assessment; timing of work

1) Jeff Lockwood (NOAA/NMFS) said that the Bonneville Pool is Critical Habitat for several ESUs. He will need to know how much habitat has changed, what water quality impacts (turbidity and chemical water quality) occur, species present and potentially impacted. He asked that the Corps consider moving the removal action to the fall of 2007. He said that the Biological Opinion is supposed to take a maximum of 135 days, but can take longer. To keep on track, it must be submitted by the end of July, and that means there would be little slack. He said that his agency must make a determination of "incidental take," based in part on Critical Habitat, such as reduction of forage area. If there is a jeopardy call, this would be a formal consultation, and the process could take much longer.

The request to change the timing of the removal action would likely necessitate work outside of the "fish window." Jeff Lockwood said that he is concerned for exposure of juvenile salmonids. The February flows are 200,000 cfs, whilst September flows are only 120,000 cfs. The Corps should consider prevention of damage to fish, safety to personnel, and possible contaminant exposure.

2) Bob Schwarz reiterated that DEQ is pushing for a February 2007 removal, but may accept a later time if it is necessary to do a better job, or if constructability is enhanced.

3) "Tissue Monitoring" versus Remedial Investigation

Patti Howard said she did not understand how the post-removal investigation would address tissue increases that could occur due to the construction. USFWS would like to see a tissue monitoring program for impacts due to the construction activities during removal. Jeremy Buck said he wants to have a tissue monitoring plan at the pre-removal stage. He is concerned about the potential "spike" of PCB that might be released during the removal action.

Greg Smith said that USFWS will need to have a basis to quantify the "take" for the jeopardy analysis that would occur through the removal action. Greg said that USFWS cannot use a QAPP it has not reviewed as the basis for a jeopardy analysis for a project, even if it is a restoration project. In the absence of a basis, the agency may have to generate one.

Jeff Lockwood notes that if there is no jeopardy nor adverse modification, then monitoring is not a part of the requirements. Chris Moody added that the upcoming Removal Design addresses prospective water quality impacts by using data gathered during the Equipment Removal.

SPMD deployment was suggested by DEQ as a means to addressing releases during the construction phase. John agreed to add SPMD deployment details for the construction phase to the Pre-removal QAPP.

John said that, in the Corps' view, the post-removal sampling will provide both the basis for the RI and also generate data that will be comparable to the pre-removal sampling (with the exception of the immediate removal area). He noted that we are not sampling for Natural Resource Damage Assessment during the RI/FS. The Corps does not plan to produce a separate "tissue monitoring" document.

4. Meeting Conclusions and Announcement of Upcoming Meetings (Dasso)

a) Mark said that Jones and Stokes has been contracted for Public Involvement. They are conducting interviews, and meetings. Their findings will be posted on the website, and a Public Involvement Plan drafted during June. A Community Advisory Committee will be formed.

b) The next meeting will be on July 11.