

**Clark Fork Settlement Agreement
Management Committee Meeting Record
March 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m. (PST)
Heartwood Center, Sandpoint, ID**

Management Committee Representatives in Attendance

Avista – Monica Ott
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes – Les Evarts
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (Idaho DEQ) – Bob Steed
Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) – Carson Watkins
Kalispel Tribe – Joe Maroney
Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club – Carter Sandahl
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) – Lee Anderson
Noxon-Cabinet Shoreline Coalition – Rick Robinson (departed 2:00)
Panhandle Chapter Trout Unlimited – Chip Corsi (alternate)
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Ben Conard
United States Forest Service, Cabinet Ranger District (USFS) – Michael Feiger

Other Attendees

Avista–Shana Bernall, Heide Evans, Bruce Howard, Joe Wright, David Howell, Paul Kusnierz, Sean Moran, Eric Oldenburg, Arthur Potts, Tyler Zumwalt, Ben Birdsall, Davina Brown, and Lisa Johnson; Avista Grant Writer–Susan Drumheller; IDFG–Ken Bouwens, Andy Dux, and Ryan Hardy; Idaho Panhandle National Forest–Kevin Davis; Kaniksu Land Trust – Regan Plumb (arrived at 2:00 p.m.) Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club–Christine Sandahl; MFWP–Travis Rehm; Priest Lake Homeowners Association–Alan Songstad (conference call); USFWS–Ken King and Carter Fredenberg

Welcome and Introductions

Monica Ott welcomed those in attendance to the 60th meeting. The purpose of today’s meeting is to review and approve the 2023 Annual Report budget sheet and 2024 Annual Implementation Plans (AIPs). Ott invited everyone to introduce themselves and a quorum was recognized. Ott reviewed housekeeping items.

Sign-In Sheet/Membership

Ott informed MC members to fulfill (in part) requirements of Paragraph 33 of the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement (CFSA), requires parties to designate representatives to the Management Committee (MC), Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee (WRTAC), and Terrestrial Resources Technical Advisory Committee (TRAC) annually in writing. The sign-in sheet is used to verify meeting attendance and to accomplish these tasks, locate your name, make any necessary corrections, and initial. If your contact information or representatives changes between meetings, please notify Avista.

Meeting Etiquette

Ott explained the meeting etiquette, formal decision-making process, caucus if needed, and the 30-minute rule. The MC will be approving several AIPs and the group strives to seek consensus approval. Ott outlined the approval process. If a vote is needed the procedures will be reviewed at that time. The language for the approval of AIPs will be displayed on the screen for all MC members to view prior to and during decision making.

Ott reviewed the meeting information and materials were sent in two emails, the first email was sent on February 9, 2024 with the draft agenda, draft 2023 Annual Report, and draft 2024 Annual Implementation Plans. The second email was sent on February 27, 2024 with the final meeting agenda, grants summary, and September 2023 MC meeting record.

Final Agenda Review and Approval

Ott reviewed the meeting agenda. There were no additions or changes to the meeting agenda.

FERC Action Summary

Ott explained that Paragraph 30 of the CFSA) requires Avista to keep the MC informed of license compliance items. There have been two Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) submittals since the September 2023 meeting:

- October 23, 2023–Avista submitted a Notification of the Cabinet Gorge Dam Fish Passage Facility Shutdown on October 6, 2023.
- October 27, 2023–Avista submitted a Report on Condition 20 of the Biological Opinion regarding six Bull Trout mortalities from September and October of 2023.

Consent Mail Package Update

Ott explained that consent mailings are a business process utilized to seek approval of various items between formal MC meetings. There have been two consent mails since the September 2023 meeting, and both were approved.

- Appendix H–Facilities Fund Budget Allocation for Pilgrim Creek Park Baseball Field Improvements
- Appendix H–Facilities Fund Budget Allocation for Trout Creek Boat Ramp

2023 Clark Fork Project Annual Report

Ott reminded MC members that today is the last day to comment on the draft 2023 Annual Report. Heide Evans presented the 2023 annual report budget sheet and Ott asked if there were any questions. The MC members reviewed the annual report budget sheet.

Ott requested consensus approval of Section 12.1 annual budget report as presented.

The 2023 Annual Report Section 12.1 annual budget report was approved by consensus as presented.

2024 Annual Implementation Plans

Cultural Resources Management Group Update

Lisa Johnson provided background information on the Cultural Resources Management Group (CRMG) that was formed in support of CFSA Appendix R (Clark Fork Heritage Resource Program) and corresponds to FERC License Article 427 for Clark Fork Project. The CRMG consists of representatives from the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Flathead Reservation, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, USFS, Idaho and Montana State Historic Preservation Offices, and Avista.

Appendix R: Clark Fork Heritage Resource Program

Johnson provided an update on Appendix R and noted that the CRMG meeting was held on February 29, 2024. During this meeting the CRMG reviewed 32 of the 2024 aquatic and terrestrial resources project plans that have planned ground/vegetation disturbance or the potential to effect cultural/historic resources. The CRMG also reviewed the 2024 Appendix R AIP, Clark Fork Heritage Resource Program project plan, and associated estimated budget of \$57,000.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix R AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix R AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Terrestrial Resources Technical Advisory Committee Update

Arthur Potts provided an update on the TRTAC meeting was held on January 17, 2024, and the fall meeting is set for August 28, 2024.

Appendix G: Implementation of the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)

Potts described the purpose of this measure is to provide protection and maintenance of resources on Avista owned project lands and promote the rural and remote character of the area through implementation of the LUMP while still allowing reasonable access to the public.

A slide listing the 5 Project Plans was shown, with Potts saying that he'd only be describing the new Noxon Rapids Dam Vicinity Hunting Restrictions project. Avista plans to install two gates and signage to restrict hunting and off-road driving.

Bob Steed asked if the MC already approved payment of property taxes. Ott answered yes, a few years ago, but an oversight resulted and property taxes were omitted from Project Plan budgets. Steed then asked what the annual total is for property taxes. Potts and Ott explained the annual total is approximately \$30,000 for terrestrial and a similar amount for aquatic.

Potts provided an overhead of the Noxon Rapids Dam area with hunting restrictions portrayed.

Potts provided an overview of the LUMP 2024 budget of \$203,800 and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix G AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix G AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix H: Implementation of the Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP)

Potts reviewed the purpose of this measure, which is to provide for appropriate and adequate recreational opportunities and facilities associated with the Clark Fork Project through implementation of the RRMP. The below 2024 Project Plans were listed with Potts providing updates on three projects.

Management Fund

1. Administration and Resource Integration
 -
2. Monitoring
3. **Operation and Maintenance Two Rivers RV Park**
 - Potts described the addition of the operation and maintenance for Two Rivers RV Park.
4. Interpretation and Education Facility Fund

Facility Fund

5. **Trout Creek Boat Ramp Improvements**
 - Potts showed slide of the Trout Creek boat ramp and briefly described repairs.
6. Heron and Cabinet Gorge Fence Repairs (Tier 1)
 - Potts showed overhead views of the properties and fence lines to be repaired.
7. North Shore Expansion (Tier 1)
 - Potts showed overhead views of the properties, prior to an acquisition we will seek approval through Consent Mail.
8. Thompson Falls State Park Group Shelter (Tier 1)
 - Potts showed overhead views of the property, shelter, parking, and other improvements.
9. **Supplemental Projects (Tier 2)**

- Potts showed table of supplemental projects project sponsors, and initial MC approval dates, permitting requirements, and anticipated budgets. This project plan budget includes up to \$100,000 for unanticipated repair and improvement projects that arise during the year.

Potts provided an overview of the 2024 RRMP budgets including \$398,800 Management Fund and \$386,065 Facility Fund and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of 2024 Appendix H AIP as presented including the increased budget for operations and maintenance and inclusion of the Trout Creek Boat Ramp Improvements project plan.

The 2024 Appendix H AIP was approved by consensus as presented including the increased budget for operations and maintenance and inclusion of the Trout Creek Boat Ramp Improvements project plan.

Appendix I: Implementation of the Aesthetics Management Plan

Potts stated purpose of this measure is to provide for the protection and enhancement of aesthetic resources associated with Avista's Clark Fork Project and to mitigate for project related impacts to those resources through the implementation of the Aesthetics Management Plan.

Potts provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix I \$12,000 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix I AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix I AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix J: Development and Implementation of the Wildlife, Botanical, and Wetland Management Plan

Potts stated the purpose of this PM&E is to provide for the organization and presentation of the various wildlife, botanical and wetland management activities, and site-specific plans within a single, comprehensive management plan document.

There are no formal project plans associated with Appendix J. There are three annual requirements associated with this PM&E measure:

1. Utilize Wildlife, Botanical, and Wetland Management Plan to help guide enhancement programs.
2. Continue to update the habitat protection spreadsheet.
3. Incidental observations of bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and common loons.

Potts provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix J \$5,000 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix J AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix J AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix K: Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Enhancement and Management Program

Potts stated the purpose of this program is to mitigate for the potential effects to wildlife resources and habitat due to the continued operation of the Clark Fork Project. The program will focus on the types of habitat most significantly affected, such as wetlands and other riparian habitats. The below 2024 Project Plans were listed with Potts providing updates on the Wood Duck Re-vegetation Maintenance Project.

1. Operation and Maintenance of Acquired Property and Contingency Fund
2. Habitat Acquisition and Conservation and Contingency Fund
3. **Wood Duck Re-vegetation Maintenance**

- Wood Duck revegetation work continues, and a vegetation management plan is anticipated for review.

Potts provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix K \$146,522 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix K AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix K AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix L: Black Cottonwood Habitat Protection and Enhancement

Potts stated the purpose of this measure is to provide for the protection of black cottonwood trees and stands on Avista owned Project lands at three high priority sites through site-specific management and enchantment plans.

There are no formal project plans associated with Appendix L. There are two annual requirements associated with this PM&E measure:

1. Continue to protect black cottonwood stands through implementation of the LUMP.
2. Continue to monitor and maintain enclosures at the Hereford Slough.

Potts provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix L \$15,000 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix L AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix L AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix M: Wetland Protection and Enhancement Program

Potts reviewed that the purpose of this PM&E is to provide for the protection of wetlands on Avista owned project lands, and evaluation and potential enhancement of selected wetland areas.

There are no formal project plans associated with Appendix M. There are two annual requirements associated with this PM&E measure:

1. Continue to explore wetland enhancement for Twin Creek parcel acquired in 2016.
2. Monitor enhancements previously completed at the Hereford Slough, McKay Creek, Finley Flats, and Blacktail Bay/Islands

Potts provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix M \$13,000 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix M AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix M AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix P: Forest Habitat Protection and Enhancement

Potts reviewed the purpose of this PM&E is for the protection and enhancement of specific previously identified forest habitat parcels of Avista project land along the reservoirs that exhibit significant wildlife habitat value. There are no forest management or enhancement project proposed at this time. Efforts in

20204 will focus on continued monitoring and protection measures and evaluating additional areas for proposed timber management projects.

1. South Fork Block Management Area Spotted Knapweed Treatment
 - A 3-year treatment to monitor and assess the efficacy of spraying each year to determine if treatment needs to continue.
2. Tuscor Block Management Area Road Development
 - Develop a road system that would be specifically available to hunters with a Permit to Hunt from Vehicle issued by MFWP.

Potts provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix P \$22,000 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix P AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix P AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix Q: Reservoir Island Protection

Potts reviewed the purpose of this measure, which is to provide for the protection of islands owned by Avista in the project reservoirs and maintain the wildlife habitat functions of these islands.

There are no formal project plans under Appendix Q; however, there is one annual requirement.

1. Ensure restrictions developed for the protection of these areas continue, utilizing land use classifications described in the LUMP.

Potts provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix Q \$0 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix Q AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix Q AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix S: Erosion Fund and Shoreline Stabilization Guidelines Program

Potts reviewed the purpose of this measure, which is to provide funds to ameliorate adverse impacts to resources of interest caused by the continued operation of the Clark Fork Projects.

1. Kirby Gulch Shoreline Stabilization
 - Potts presented a slide of bank erosion and briefly described the project.

Potts provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix S \$68,500 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix S AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix S AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Steed asked how much money is allocated to operations and maintenance as opposed to capital projects. Heide Evans will provide the answer later today.

Ryan Hardy, IDFG, provided a presentation for ongoing Lake Pend Oreille (LPO) fisheries research, including but not limited to CFSA funded projects.

Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee Update

Eric Oldenburg provided an update on the WRTAC meeting held on January 16, 2024, and the fall meeting date is August 27, 2024.

Appendix A: Idaho Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Fishery Enhancement Program

Oldenburg introduced PM&E Coordinator Ken Bouwens, IDFG, and stated the purpose of this program is to offset the impacts of the power peaking operation of the Cabinet Gorge Project to native salmonids through the restoration and enhancement of lower Clark Fork River and LPO tributary watersheds, fishery monitoring and management support, and a public education and enforcement initiative focused on Bull Trout and their associated habitats in Idaho.

Bouwens relayed there are 9 Project Plans in Appendix A and will review three of those plans.

Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Enhancement

1. Rattle Creek Habitat Enhancement Project
 - Fall approximately 170 large trees into about 2 miles of the active channel.
 - Add a monitoring plan annually for 3 years.
2. The Grouse Creek Stream Channel Restoration Project (New)
 - Stream diversion/channel restoration

Bouwens provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix A Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Enhancement Fund \$592,212 budget.

Fishery Resource Monitoring, Enhancement, and Management

3. Fish Resource Monitoring, Enhancement, and Management Plan
 - Bouwens presented a slide of Fishery Resource Monitoring, Enhancement, and Management Plan and described some small changes to the monitoring plan.

Bouwens provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix A Fish Resource Monitoring, Enhancement, and Management Fund \$122,000 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix A AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix A AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix B: Montana Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Recreational Fishery Enhancement Program

Oldenburg introduced PM&E Coordinator Travis Rehm, MFWP, and stated the purpose of this program is to offset the impacts of the power peaking operation of the Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids Projects to native salmonids and recreational fisheries in Montana.

Rehm relayed there are 18 Project Plans in Appendix B and he will review three of those plans

Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Enhancement

1. Habitat Restoration Monitoring and Native Salmonid Abundance Monitoring Plan
 - Monitoring native salmonids on lower Clark Fork River (LCFR) tributaries and sampling also supports other projects, for example this year Graves Creek Bull Trout Translocation, Prospect Bull Trout Salvage, and part of the Pathogen Survey Sampling.

Recreational Fishery Enhancement

2. Noxon Reservoir Bathymetry Update
 - Oldenburg noted maps can be provided to stakeholders upon request.
3. Lower Clark Fork River Pathogen Survey (New)
 - This year regions 2, 3, and 4 will be sampled as part of the 5-year sampling of this project.

Rehm provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix B Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Enhancement Fund \$318,303 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Rehm provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix B Recreational Fishery Enhancement Fund \$216,551 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix B AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix B AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Rehm presented a slide of proposed project plan to Monitor Effectiveness of the Vermilion River Restoration. Rehm is working with USGS on this and if the pieces fall into place, then a Consent Mail for this plan will go out.

Appendix C: Fish Passage/Native Salmonid Restoration Plan

Oldenburg introduced PM&E Coordinator Shana Bernall, Avista, and stated the purpose of the Fish Passage/Native Salmonid Restoration Plan is to mitigate the continuing effects of the project as obstructions to fish passage, and to achieve the goal of increasing the long-term population viability of native salmonids in the Lake Pend Oreille-lower Clark Fork River system (FERC Order, Article 406). This goal is to be accomplished through the aggressive implementation of the Clark Fork River Native Salmonid Restoration Plan (NSRP).

Bernall explained that although there are 9 Project Plans in Appendix C she will discuss 7 of them.

Annual Operations

1. Upstream Fish Passage Program
 - Cabinet Gorge Fish Passage Facility (CGFPF) Subgroup decided to discontinue night electrofishing to collect additional Bull Trout to tag and help evaluate the CGFPF but may decide to night electrofish to collect additional Westslope Cutthroat Trout when the CGFPF is shutdown or if there are extended periods of unexpected trap shutdowns.
 - Westslope Cutthroat Trout transported upstream of Cabinet Gorge Dam will be released near Bull River Bay in Cabinet Gorge Reservoir (instead of Big Eddy boat launch).
 - A decision has been made to use only 12 mm FDX PIT tags for tagging Bull Trout and WCT this year and into the future.
2. Westslope Cutthroat Trout Transport Evaluation
 - All fin tissue samples have been collected, so the focus in 2024 will be for the lab to complete the genetic analysis and a final report is anticipated in 2025.
3. Native Salmonid Restoration Plan Five-Year Plan
 - Additional PM&Es (i.e., adding plan sections for CFSA appendices D, E, F1-4 to the existing five-year plan that covered appendices A, B, C, and F5). The incorporation of the additional PM&Es requires additional time to draft the new plan, which has resulted in a shift from MC approval timing from this spring to the fall.
4. Tributary Trapping and Downstream Juvenile Bull Trout Transport Program
 - This year check traps six days per week when it is prudent to do so from operational and fish health perspectives.

- Eliminate spring screw traps in the East Fork Bull River (we haven't captured Bull Trout using this method in the past two years and fall electrofishing is more effective).
- Oldenburg will add a line item to the budget table for property taxes at the Graves Creek permanent weir trap site.

Facilities

5. Fish Capture Facilities Operation, Development, and Testing
 - No additional funds are being requested since there are sufficient carryover funds to cover this work.
 - Will plan to meet with the CGFPF subgroup to begin discussions on what additional information may be needed prior to reinitiating discussions on a permanent fish passage facility below Noxon Rapids Dam. We will have more details to share at the summer WRTAC and fall MC meeting.
6. Graves Creek Permanent Weir Trap Enhancements
 - The traveling screen project unlikely to move forward.

Cabinet Minor Modifications

7. Cabinet Gorge Fish Passage Facility Minor Modifications
 - There are several additional projects (including air bubbler in the forebay, containment for the vacuum pump, heat trace in the monorail drain, additional siphon pipe supports and modifications to the HPU system) that may be brought to the CGFPF subgroup for approval of funds.

Bernall provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix C Annual Operations Fund \$1,985,106 budget, Facilities Fund \$316,067 budget, and Minor Modifications Fund \$458,728 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix C AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix C AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix D: Bull Trout Protection and Public Education Project

Oldenburg introduced PM&E Coordinator Sean Moran, Avista, and stated the purpose of this project is to protect Bull Trout, a federally listed species (threatened), through a combination of enhanced law enforcement efforts by the states of Idaho and Montana, coupled with a public education outreach program.

Moran presented the 6 Appendix D Project Plans and relayed that as there were no major changes proposed.

Moran provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix D Bull Trout Protection Project \$240,790 budget. He relayed that the annual request has just exceeded the annual contribution and the Appendix D implementers will be working to address this exceedance. Moran finished with asking if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix D AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix D AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix E: Watershed Councils Program

Oldenburg introduced PM&E Coordinator Sean Moran, Avista, and stated the purpose of this program is to facilitate the protection and restoration of tributary stream habitat in the Lake Pend Oreille-Clark Fork River system.

Moran presented the two App E Project Plans and relayed that as there were no major changes proposed.

Moran provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix E \$16,370 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix E AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix E AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix F1: Clark Fork River Water Quality Monitoring Program

Oldenburg introduced PM&E Coordinator Paul Kusnierz, Avista, and stated the purpose of this program is to provide for the systematic, long-term monitoring of nutrients and metals in the lower Clark Fork River.

Kusnierz presented the Clark Fork River Water Quality Monitoring Program Plan and stated it would be business as usual with Avista collecting water quality samples below Thompson Falls, Noxon Rapids, and Cabinet Gorge dams. Montana DEQ is still seeking an entity to coordinate the larger Clark Fork River sample program; however, this will not affect our sampling in 2024.

Kusnierz provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix F1 \$44,000 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix F1 AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix F1 AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix F2: Monitoring of Noxon Reservoir Stratification and Mobilization of Sediment
Nutrients/Metals

Kusnierz stated the purpose of this monitoring program is to collect data concerning the potential for nutrients or metals deposited in Noxon Reservoir sediments to remobilize back into the water column during periods of stratification.

The final of three stratification monitoring events occurred in 2023. The Comprehensive Project Report is anticipated to be completed in 2024 and Avista will be working toward sunseting this PM&E measure.

Kusnierz provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix F2 \$38,253 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix F2 AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix F2 AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix F3: Aquatic Organism Tissue Analysis

Kusnierz stated the purpose of this measure is to provide a commitment to analyze aquatic organism tissues for the presence of toxic substances.

Kusnierz relayed the Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs Fish Mercury Study is currently in progress, and we expect the Comprehensive Project Report and the updated MFWP fish consumption guidelines by the end of the year.

Kusnierz provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix F3 \$6,920 budget and asked if there were any questions.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix F3 AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix F3 AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix F4: Water Quality Protection and Monitoring Plan for Maintenance, Construction, and Emergency Activities

Oldenburg stated the purpose of this measure is to minimize or eliminate negative effects on water quality and associated resources related to dam maintenance, construction, and emergency activities. Nothing new is proposed for 2024. Oldenburg is to annually update the designated contacts for the Plan, as needed.

Oldenburg provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix F4 budget noting that any costs associated with implementing this PM&E measure are covered by Avista outside of a defined CFSA financial obligation.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix F4 AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix F4 AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix F5: Dissolved Gas Supersaturation Control, Mitigation, and Monitoring

Oldenburg introduced PM&E coordinators Paul Kusnierz, Avista, and Ken Bouwens, IDFG, and stated that the purpose of this measure is to provide for the study, control, mitigation, and monitoring of gas supersaturation and the associated biological resource effects related to spill at Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids dams.

Of the 19 Project Plans in Appendix F5, Bouwens and Kusnierz will discuss 4.

TDG Mitigation and Monitoring Program

1. Mapping the Potential for Fish to Compensate for Total Dissolved Gas in the Lower Clark Fork River
 - Kusnierz relayed the goal of this project is to understand the amount of habitat in the lower Clark Fork River where fish can compensate for elevated total dissolved gas and how it changes. He then briefly described progress on this plan with overhead depiction of HEC_RAS flow modeling of LCFR. Kusnierz relayed that the model information will be put into a report that discusses potential management implications and actions.
2. Lake Pend Oreille Lake Trout Netting Program
 - Bouwens briefly described progress on this plan with slide of netting boat.
3. Clark Fork River Population Monitoring
 - Bouwens briefly described progress on this plan with slide of efishing boat.
4. Gas Supersaturation Control Program Total Dissolved Gas Abatement
 - Kusnierz relayed the goal of this project is the implementation of total dissolved gas reduction measures as described in the GSCP Addendum in the areas of “Engineering & Evaluation” and “Construction & Implementation”. Kusnierz briefly described progress

on this plan with a slide of Cabinet Gorge Dam spillgate modifications and graph of anticipated total dissolved levels at given LCFR flows.

Kusnierz provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix F5 Mitigation and Monitoring Fund budget including transfers of “Section 3.2 funding” resulting in a request of \$1.5 Million budget and asked if there were any questions.

Steed asked if the MC can recommend Quagga mussel sampling under this measure? Discussion followed on Idaho Department of Agriculture sampling, Avista’s annual veliger sampling under Appendix B, state of Montana sampling and applicability of eDNA. It was suggested the Idaho Department of Agriculture present on current sampling to WRTAC.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix F5 AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix F5 AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Bull Trout Migration Timing

Ken Bouwens introduced Ben Birdsall who provided a presentation on Bull Trout migration and timing.

Appendix T: Project Operations Package

Oldenburg stated that the purpose of this measure is to mitigate the effects of project operations to achieve the goals of enhancing native salmonids and providing recreational fishery opportunities.

Oldenburg provided an overview of the 2024 Appendix T budget noting the financial obligation associated with Appendix T had been fully met and there were no remaining dollars associated with this appendix.

Ott requested consensus approval of the 2024 Appendix T AIP as presented.

The 2024 Appendix T AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Grant Writer Update

Susan Drumheller provided an update and reviewed the grant status report. A total of \$13.3 million in grant funds have been acquired since the beginning of CFSA implementation to support projects. Ott reminded the group that grant funding does not take away from Avista’s obligation under the CFSA and are a good opportunity to bring in additional resources.

Kaniksu Land Trust Update

Regan Plumb provided an update on the Kaniksu Land Trust activities, describing successful projects both in partnership with the CFSA and other.

Other:

Ott reminded the group to reach out to Drumheller or Ruth Watkins for grant writing assistance.

Select Fall Meeting Date:

September 24-25, 2024 in Trout Creek, Montana.

Adjourn Meeting:

Ott thanked all the stakeholders and implementers for their continued efforts on projects. Meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m. (PST).