

FCRPS Cultural Resources Sub-Committee
Summary Notes
September 18-19, 2007
Welches, Oregon

The CRSC met at Welches, Oregon on September 18-19, 2007 for their quarterly meeting. The meeting started at 9:00 AM on September 18th and concluded at approximately 12:00 PM on September 19th.

Participants at the meeting included:

*Lynne MacDonald
Kimberly St. Hilaire
Rebekah Pettinger
Kristen Martine
Connie Reiner
Gail Celmer
Jennifer Richman
Lawr Salo
David Grant
Allen Pomraning
Ray Tracy
Mike Alder (afternoon of 9/18)*

1. Update on Systemwide PA and Schedule. An informal draft of the PA was distributed by e-mail to FCRPS technical participants on September 10, 2007 with a request to review prior to upcoming conference. No formal comments were requested at this time but the agencies would like to discuss the steps toward finalization at the conference. Also, Project Managers should discuss the need for technical or government to government meetings in their respective Co-op groups. CRSC would like to know how many meetings and what level of consultation may be needed by November 2nd. That way scheduling can be discussed at the November CRSC meeting. We will require several months lead time to schedule agency management, if government to government meetings are requested. Meetings need to occur before a final version is circulated for signature, preferably in the March timeframe. Comment/response spreadsheet from the last formal review needs to be finalized and distributed.

2. FY07 and FY08 Performance Indicators. The group reviewed due dates for the FY07 PIs and will successfully complete all milestones except for the Hungry Horse Draft Project PA. Reclamation's recommendation was to move this milestone to FY08 when the Systemwide PA is closer to completion. The group reviewed the draft FY08 PIs developed at the last CRSC meeting and made some revisions. The final FY08 PIs will be: (1) finalize Chief Joseph HPMP by 9/30/08; (2) develop draft project PA for Libby by 9/30/08; (3) Develop draft Project PA for Albeni Falls by 9/30/08; (4) Develop draft Project PA for Hungry Horse by 9/30/08; and, (5) address comments and coordinate PA for signature process by 7/31/08. The group discussed adding a GIS PI in FY09

3. Update on Baseline Study Report. BPA will finalize the narrative portion of the Paul Nickens' report by the end of calendar year 2007. BPA discussed GIS data gaps at each of the projects, success stories, approaches to complete survey attribute tables, and FY08 GIS requirements in contract scopes of work. The GIS portion of the baseline study is on-going and will be updated as data is received from Corps and Reclamation.

4. Annual Report. The first annual FCRPS report, as required by the PA, is projected for March 2009 and will be based on data obtained in FY08. The group discussed preparing a trial or "dry run" of the report prior to that date to define potential problem areas.

5. Systemwide Research Design. The group discussed the purpose of a systemwide research design, what it might look like, and possible methods to get started on its development. A good starting point may be a concept document that describes basic objectives or systemwide guidelines for gathering data. Because the next FCRPS conference marks the 10 year anniversary of funding under the Joint Funding Agreement, it may be a good time to have this topic as a central point of the agenda.

6. FCRPS Extraordinary Funding and Rate Case. Mike Alder, BPA JOC Co-Chair, provided a special presentation on joint funding at the request of the CRSC. He explained the funding for the joint O&M program and how that funding affects overall rates charged by BPA. Although the funding allotted to cultural resources is a small portion of the O&M program, there is increased awareness by the public of O&M costs and their effect on power rates. Rate case development takes place in the context of a power function review which now occurs every two years. BPA managers are interested in the baseline study data so they can better understand where the program is in terms of Section 106 compliance.

Because of the rate case schedule, the budget is set through 2009. If there are extraordinary needs such as emergency repairs or inadvertent discoveries, additional funding can be requested but the need must be truly exceptional and justifiable. If unexpected cultural resources funding is needed, it would likely not be reprogrammed systemwide, but funds could be redirected from either Corps or Reclamation's cultural resources budget. The group discussed the need to extend future funding beyond the terms of the Direct Funding Agreement and the need to plan a few years in advance.

6. Annual Conference Update. BPA has arranged for two notetakers at the conference as well as two facilitator/moderators. Downriver groups should plan on 30 minute presentations and upriver groups will have 10 minutes to present significant accomplishments. ACHP and four SHPOs are expected to attend. More people are attending the Elders' dinner than originally expected.

7. TCP Monitoring and Recent Issues in Walla Walla. The group discussed monitoring in the Section 106 program and how it could be used during identification, evaluation and treatment phases, depending on the need at a particular project. Recent

draft guidance from Corps Division indicates that monitoring is appropriate for potentially eligible properties, but recommends that evaluation should take place. Monitoring is defined differently by different people and in the Walla Walla group, it appears to be more of a condition assessment of TCPs.

- 8. BPA Survey Results.** BPA recently completed their annual customer survey of their cultural resources program. They recommended that in the future the replies will not be anonymous because it is impossible to follow up on specific comments. Also, it is a time consuming process and they may go to an every-other-year schedule.
- 9. Establishing Teams for Systemwide PA Commitments.** The group agreed that as tasks come up on the PA, it would be more efficient if sub-groups or teams were formed to work outside of the quarterly CRSC meetings.
- 10. FY08 Meetings.** November 27-28, 2007, Seattle area; February 5-6, 2008, Boise area; June 10-11, 2008, Walla Walla/Spokane area; and September 10-11, 2008, Portland area.