Meeting Notes: Northwest Environmental Data-network Steering Committee and PNAMP Data Management Work Group Meeting

Time: 5/3/2006 from 9:00 to 4:00

Location: Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission, 729 NE Oregon St, Ste 200, Portland Oregon.

Participants: Bruce Schmidt (StreamNet), Tom Pansky (BPA), Peter Paquet (NPCC), Tom O'Neil (NWHI), Stewart Toshach (NED), Paul Cedfeldt (USACE), Bobby Riggers (OWEB), Greg Robillard (State of the Salmon Consortium), Phil Roger (CRITFC). On phone: Paul Ocker (USACE), Cedric Cooney (StreamNet-ODFW), Joy Paulus (WA IAC) Jim Gieselman (BPA)

A. NED AGENDA ITEMS

1) Introductions (see above).

2) Short Updates from Workgroup Leads.

Data Discovery and Sharing (Tom Pansky)

The latest version 3.0 of the ESRI portal tool kit is now being installed and has been moved to a production server. Jim Abney, a BPA web developer, is working with Tom on the effort. A one day technical workshop was hosted by BPA and attended by staff from inside and outside BPA. The new functions make it easier to set up User Communities, which could, for example, help CBFWA for the "State of the Resource" report. Tom also attended a meeting at EcoTrust for a demonstration of the SOS data tools for Pacific salmonid data and will attend a State of Oregon May 18th meeting on Biodiversity Indicators.

SubBasin Planning, (Peter Paquet and Phil Roger)

Phil Roger all of the data from Mobrand has now been obtained and the next step is to look at all the metadata. A report is being prepared, for the Council to identify all the problems that have been encountered while putting together the data sets after they are collected (rather than defining data collection standards before data collection).

Upland Habitat, (Tom O'Neil)

The Habitat Classification cross walk is nearing completion with 2100 entries. 750 have not yet been cross walked. The task is now expected to be completed by July 1st.

Subbasin planning data has now been collected from 30 Subbasins. Only 3 of these were organized or tied to the actual figure number of the Subbasin plan which further complicated the task. Data from 12 Subbasins has now been archived and 10 more have been downloaded from information on-line. This task is also expected to be completed by July 1st.

Water Quality (David Tetta)

David reported on the May 1st Meeting of the NED WQ Workgroup

The inventory is ready to be sent out to NED members, and to contacts listed in spreadsheet rows

Revisions to inventory and available resources. The work group is limited in the resources that it has to complete more work on the inventory and is seeking staffing support/resources from the NED Steering Committee to help in maintaining documents, making revisions as needed and moving information on to the web. The document covers more than just water resources so how will NED, as a whole, maintain it? One way to update the inventory would be to develop a wiki format. Other agencies may be interested in maintaining it, for example the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Spatial Temporal (Stewart Toshach for Joy Paulus)

The "Best Practices for Reporting Locational and Time Related Data" has been posted on the NED web site. Discussions have begun with regional executive to deploy the best practices. Stewart and Peter have had discussions with their Co Chairs. NOOAF also intends to refer the best practices to PNAMP for consideration of common deployment by agencies participating in PNAMP.

Salmonid Data Management Group (Stewart Toshach)

NMFS Salmonid Status and Trend Data Collection Process Study. Consultation with staff, including the leads of the TRT's at the NWFSC are now complete and a revised statement off work has been completed. The next step is to consult with State Agency Fish and Wildlife agencies, Tribes and StreamNet on the revised statement of work.

Cross walk between PCSRF and PISCES data definitions. The cross-walk is complete. NOAAF plans to write to BPA asking for a further cooperative effort to make the data definitions more consistent, and therefore more comparable.

Stewart attended an April 24th meeting of the Puget Sound Partnership http://www.pugetsoundpartnership.org and encouraged the group to specifically consider needs for data management as a part of their deliberations and planning. Stewart also plans to attend a meeting being convened by EPA on May 18th to discuss the development of Habitat Indicators.

3) Plans and participation at Regional Data Management Workshop, May 23 and 24, 2006. The agenda and participant list was discussed. There was considerable discussion that some key

participants from State Fish and Wildlife agencies had not yet committed to attending. This was viewed as a serious problem by Bruce and Cedric. Options for soliciting participation were discussed and it was agreed that a letter would be drafted for signature by NED Executives and circulation to a targeted mail list. Bruce Schmidt and Cedric Cooney will identify fish and wildlife agency contacts and Phil Roger will identify additional Tribal contacts.
There was detailed discussion concerned how to best involve participation and how best to work on introducing effective plans and actions for improving data management within and between agencies. Amongst the views offered was a perception that it was easier to get executive level awareness of the need to change but much harder to achieve change with middle managers who have existing program responsibilities and often see change as "additional new tasks".

4) Status of arrangements for EPA Challenge Grant Application.

Our approaches to States to apply for Challenge Grant funding for a DDBMS pilot to add fishery and habitat data to water quality data sets in the PNWWQDX have been unsuccessful. The states have water quality data projects that they are seeking these funds for. It was agreed that NED would write to Pat Garvey at the EPA (who had suggested that we apply for this funding source) indicating that we currently do not have the administrative ability way to apply for this funding. Joy suggested that we could continue to develop a request, for application to the EPA or other sources as opportunities arose. Greg Robillard and Joy offered to help.

5) Development of NED proposal for Regional Information Management.

Two documents were provided for discussion: a Columbia Basin Data Center Proposal, authored by Dr. Tom Karier; and, a draft NED response to that proposal. Peter indicated that the purpose of Tom's paper is to stimulate discussion leading to the development of a focused data management work plan for the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. Comments on the proposal were welcome. It was agreed that the proposal would fit within the visioning section of the upcoming workshop and potentially promote discussion. Jim Gieselman thought that regional data needs were broader in scope than just a BPA centric effort and that cost-share would be needed. Joy Paulus saw the executive interest as an opportunity to make positive change and suggested working with it to the extent we could. Meeting participants agreed to forward any immediate comments to Stewart by May 12th. The NED Center Proposal was drafted to place the Columbia proposal within the broader NED regional context.

6) Request from CBFWA for data management support for the Status of the Resource Report.
Peter and Stewart had joined a call with CBFWA staff to discuss data management issues related to the CBFWA status of the Resource Support. The purpose was to identify data resources that had the potential to contribute to the report preparation. CBFWA staff said that the current plan is to gradually increase the complexity and content level in the planned report –that the current outline would require more staff resources than CBFWA has – and that the plan is to make use of existing data resources where these exist.

7) Report from the StreamNet Spring Steering Committee Meeting.

Bruce Schmidt reported on some items relating to NED interests. Bruce reported that CBFWA had attended the StreamNet spring meeting and StreamNet had agreed to move forward with database development to meet CBFWA "Status of the Resource" needs (see item 6 above). The plan is to develop a repository to hold the data and to standardize the needed data across agencies. StreamNet currently does not have funding for this effort but has 5 different proposals for funding in the 07-09 funding cycle and is hopeful that from these options funding will be able to support this proposed database development.

Bruce expressed concerns about the time and scale of availability of regional 1:24K Hydrology data and thought it would be years before it is developed and useable. Joy Paulus disagreed, noting that the Washington and Oregon data sets were now close to being available but the Hydrology Clearinghouse needed a new administrative home before the final edits could be made.

B) PNAMP DATA MANAGEMENT AGENDA ITEMS

1) PNAMP Inventory Task**:** Development of the survey has now been handed off by SreamNet to a programmer who will start work creating a survey form. Stewart asked if the scope and scale of the effort would now be changed since the work was unlikely to be completed in time to provide information that was needed for 07-09 Fish and Wildlife funding decisions. Bruce said some preliminary data could still be available, from the project, for this purpose and that changing deliverables would be a question for BPA. Greg Robillard said that the State of the Salmon Inventory was almost finished, with an inventory of 5000 plus records, and suggested that the PNAMP inventory project look at this resource before, collecting potentially similar data.

2) PNAMP Retreat. Stewart asked workgroup members to identify data management issues to take into the PNAMP 07 retreat and to come to the June 7th Meeting prepared to discuss them.

3) Report from PNAMP April meeting.

C) AFTERNOON SESSION 1:00 through 4:00

1) Discussion of Draft - Data Sharing Agreement

Stewart went over the draft and summarized that the main purpose of the agreement was to provide an agreement that would support operations of the NED Portal. The draft is closely modeled on a data sharing agreement developed by the Global Bio-Diversity Information Facility. There were a few suggestions for minor changes, including comparison with the "Paleontology Portal", but otherwise there was general support. Comments should be forwarded to Stewart.

2) Discussion of Draft - Data Channels and Data Steward Roles and Responsibilities.

The draft was prepared to support operation of the NED Portal and was discussed in detail. There was good support, with some suggestions for minor changes. Revised drafts for both drafts will be prepared for the next NED meeting.

NEXT MEETING: June 7th at 9:00 a.m. at CRITFC