

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

Time: 2007-01-03 from 9:00 to 4:00

Location: Conference Room: Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204
503-222-5161 or 800-452-5161

Present: Bruce Schmidt (StreamNet), Tom Pansky (BPA), Peter Paquet (NPCC), Tom O'Neil (NWHI), Phil Roger (CRITFC), Curtis Cude (ODEQ), Joy Paulus (Wa IAC), Jill Leary (LCREP), Steve Rentmeester (ISEMP), Stewart Toshach (NED). On phone: Cedric Cooney (StreamNet/ODF&W), Jim Griswold (Columbia Basin Research, UW), David Tetta (EPA), Jen Bayer (USGS), Jim Geiselman (BPA). In the afternoon we were joined by: Van Hare (StreamNet), and on the phone: Eric Lowrance (BPA), Mattheiu Denuelle, (ESRI) Mahesh Ramiah (ESRI) and Rebecca Seago-Coyle (ESRI)

Next Meeting 2007-02-07 9:00-4:00 at NPCC, Portland OR

NED AGENDA ITEMS

1) NED Proposal and Work Plan for 2007.

For the February Council meeting Peter said the Council wanted to see a 'macro' work plan format. There was now more interest in work on Hatchery, Harvest and Habitat for 4-5 Subbasins. The perception is that there is already an improved understanding of data needs for Salmonid abundance – following preliminary work that has been completed to populate the CBFWA State of the Resource Report. Council now wants to know what work is going on in these areas and who is doing what. One question is how do all the activities come together to satisfy the needs described in the Data Center Proposal? For example can PNAMP provide Data Collection Protocols and High Level Indicators, can existing regional data management entities (eg StreamNet, DART and FPC) be coordinated to meet data-handling tasks and can NED provide regional end-to-end coordination and planning functions?

Stewart went over the changes made to the NED work plan summary following the NED Steering Committee conference call on December 21st. Since the call Phil Roger had provided suggested pilot level efforts to better support tribal data collection and these had been added to the draft proposal. Details of the work plan summary were acceptable to the Steering Committee with a request to reorder the information to clearly distinguish between pilot level efforts and core NED work tasks. Stewart will reorganize and circulate to Steering Committee. Tom O'Neil will provide more information about funding for the NWHI proposal and Jim Gieselman will provide more information on the FCRPS needs.

2) StreamNet and NWHI proposals.

The Northwest Habitat Proposal was modified on the basis of needs identified in the CBFWF data management workshop. Tom O'Neil is interested in comments – they should be sent to Tom (habitat@nwhi.org) before Jan 31st 2007. The proposal is posted on the NED web site.

Bruce Schmidt reported that the StreamNet proposal was based on needs identified in the CBFWF data management workshop. Some concerns have been raised about what Council Program data management needs should have the highest priority- or to put it another way what would and would not get done.

StreamNet has met with the CBFWA Members Advisory Group and CBFWA has formed a subcommittee to further consider these priorities. Some NED Steering Committee members expressed concern that restricting input to a just subcommittee of the CBFWA Members Advisory Group was not consistent with the intent of the CBFWA workshop and thought that review of priorities should be from a wider group – as was envisioned at the Workshop.

3) Collaboration between PNW-RGIC, PNAMP and NED

Stewart reported on a recent meeting between Jen Bayer (PNAMP Coordinator), Cy Smith (PNW-RGIC Chair) and himself. The goal of the meeting was to identify how PNAMP, PNW-RGIC and PNAMP could collaborative in the most effective way. In part this is an external communications issue to develop a joint statement on what each group is doing – but beyond this how can the groups work together to promote needed work and in particular develop executive commitments needed for success of any of the groups.

A meeting for representatives from each of the groups' committees has been scheduled for February 6th, 2007. Cy Smith, Joy Paulus and Stewart are working together to coordinate this task.

Stewart noted that in 2005 and 2006, NED supported and PNAMP and PNW-RGIC contributed to successful Regional Data Meetings. The focus of these meetings was to identify in more detail than was developed in the SAIC report, what actions are needed. Now that we have identified what actions are needed what is needed is outreach to Regional Executives to develop a longer term commitment to regional data management. It is important to convey that this will require an ongoing effort – since it is necessary for the region to grow- or to grow into- a regional information management system. Steering Committee members agreed with the need to focus on using the 2007 workshop as a vehicle to develop needed executive commitment - with a few qualifications: it is essential to identify the product of the needed meeting, to clearly identify what issues would bring executives to the meeting and what purpose the meeting would serve. The Steering Committee agreed to develop a draft one pager, in conjunction with PNW-RGIC and PNAMP, for an Executive meeting and asked Stewart to prepare a draft.

4) FCRPS Biop Data Needs. Jim Gieselman explained how the Federal Caucus (FCRPS) and Recovery efforts needed to develop a high level strategy document that describes how the

different pieces fit together for the purpose of managing Biop and recovery information. The working title for the strategy is the Regional Information Management Strategy or RIMS. The idea of RIMS is to ensure that there is a high level strategic understanding of how these needs (a subset of regional information needs) will be met within the region. The strategy will be used to help identify funding and other commitments to complete these tasks and to help coordinate across Council, NED, PNAMP and other processes.

A 'RIMS' meeting is planned for January 22nd, 2007. Jen Bayer is helping to coordinate logistics for the meeting and Stewart will help with meeting facilitation on the 22nd.

Tom Pansky wanted to know if this effort was driven to meet all of the needs of the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, or to meet Salmonid RME or to meet all information needs in the region? Jim said the primary interest was to have a common view of how the region would meet Salmonid RME and recovery data management needs.

Tom reported on an internal effort within the BPA to develop an information management strategy for the next phase of PISCES. Stewart encouraged BPA to attend the next meeting of NED to brief the NED Steering Committee on this effort.

Joy wanted to know how the FCRPS/Recovery focus would relate to the WA/OR efforts, for example, for the State of the Salmon reports and noted the difficulty of the task of integrating the different data sets for the WA State of the Salmon reports.

Stewart noted that NED was set up to provide a regional forum for these types of discussion and the Steering Committee could consider hosting a FCRPS/Recovery work group with in-kind contributions from FCRPS and recovery entities.

5) Workshop Planning Team. The need for a workshop planning team was identified and forshadowed as an agenda item for the 2007-02-06 NED meeting.

6) Products to review. Phil Roger provided two documents for review and comment: *Data Management Check list for Project Funded under the NPPC Fish and Wildlife Program* and *“Activities Needed to Bring the Subbasin Planning Archive From Framework to Reality”*. Phil provided brief background on both documents. See the 2007-01-03 NED agenda for copies of the documents. Comments are sought and should be made with MS Track Changes. Please forward copies to both Phil (rogp@critfc.org) and Stewart (stewart.toshach@noaa.gov)

B. PNAMP DATA MANAGEMENT AGENDA ITEMS

1) Jen Bayer reported on a PNAMP sponsored “Inventory Collaboration” meeting held on December 18th 2006. The meeting was held to assess interest in collaborative inventory efforts. PNAMP had completed a pilot inventory of monitoring efforts in late 2006 and Jen reported that others were interested in this effort and next possible steps. There was some discussion about the scope of this effort – an the inherent difficulty – in relation to the PNAMP's interest in data collection protocols and biological monitoring. Joy Paulus asked if, prior to PNAMP going

further with the inventory effort, the PNAMP SC had reviewed the product in detail to identify if it met the original business needs identified by PNAMP. Jen said that a partial review had been completed but attendance at a review discussion was poor so more work was needed. Bruce Schmidt, speaking for StreamNet, which contracted with BPA to complete the PNAMP inventory, reported that a final report from StreamNet would be posted on the BPA website – see http://www.streamnet.org/about-sn/project_management.html

A further meeting of the broader “Inventory Collaboration” group was being planned for January 2007.

2) *Data Management Needs for Regional Project Tracking to Support Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring*. Stewart provided a summary of the background to the preparation of this report and indicated that the authors were now finished with changes and edits and the report was back with PNAMP. Jen said it would be back on the PNAMP agenda as soon as possible for a decision.

C. AFTERNOON NED PORTAL WORKSESSION 1:00 through 4:00

1) Briefing on Data Management for the Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Project -Steven Rentmeester (45 minutes). A copy of Steve’s presentation is posted on the NED web site - see Jan 3 2007 Agenda. Steve said the project was BPA Funded and focused, at a subbasin level on the collection and management of Status and Trend Abundance Data for Salmonids and Bull Trout in the John Day, Salmon and Wenatchee/Entiatt River Systems. Data collection is based on the use of data attributes developed by Hillman et.al for the Upper Columbia. The project had also completed work as a part of the PNAMP protocol evaluations and was integrated with the USBRec Protocol Manager. Data management was not a primary goal of the effort, research was the primary task with data management a necessary secondary task. Steve said that the project had now reached a pilot level effort, having evolved from experiences in collecting 2005 and 2006 to a more mature data management solution in 2007. Testing and development is ongoing. A particular focus was on the use of templates to help manage data quality issues. The project has received funding for a further 3 years. Data is not yet publicly available and will not be till mid-year 2007. For more details please see Steve’s Powerpoint.

2) NED Technology for Data Discovery and Sharing Work Group

Collaboration on Metadata reporting - NED Portal and State of Washington Natural Resources Information Portal.

ESRI had provided Joy Paulus with a ‘quick estimate’ of the likely cost of developing a template to convert the metadata records from the WA State Natural Resources Portal to allow automated harvesting by the NED Portal toolkit. ESRI staff went over the needed steps to provide a ‘custom’ template, on the NED Portal site that would display the NRI metadata in a format other

than the available defaults (ISO or FGDC). Note NRI Metadata is FGDC lite so presenting the data in a default format would show many gaps.

The cost/time (about 200hrs) to develop the template was higher than the available budget.

The work group, at Eric Lowrance's suggestion, then considered an alternative, to just use the existing WA NRI template/stylesheet within the Washington location and for new metadata being added use the slimmed-down WA format. Under this alternative the NED Portal would be set up to harvest existing WA NRI metadata records. The downside of this arrangement is that Portal will only display those attributes that exist in the metadata (which is a subset of NSDI/FGDC metadata) so there would be gaps in the records.

Agreed that it was not necessary to spend time/\$ formatting a special template for the WA records at this time. A higher priority is to figure out how to get the WA records as they currently exist. The immediate need is to find and see WA NRI records in the NED Portal. Additional NRI records can be added to the NRI site, then will show in the NED Portal at next scheduled harvest by the NED Portal.

Since the ESRI estimate was not broken out into component parts Joy asked ESRI to go ahead and break out their estimate into the component parts. This would be available in late January or early February 2007. Joy will work further with Mahesh and Eric after the next iteration of the estimate.

The discussion then developed on what Metadata standard NED will require for the NED Portal and whether or not it can be relaxed. Cedric Cooney was interested in whether it would be full FGDC, ISO, or a compliant "NW Metadata lite"? There was agreement that it is great to use FGDC metadata but it requires a fairly high level of understanding and a commitment to complete. There is a need for further discussion on this topic.

Tom Pansky advised that the NED project has lost the services of the current web-developer Cole Porter, assigned by BPA to help develop the NED Portal web presence. Since BPA uses contract support and there is a high level of turnover this would (unfortunately) be the 3rd web developer assigned to the NED Portal – which inevitably has caused slow downs as each new person is assigned and gets up to speed.

3) Work on a NED Portal Demonstration. Current goal is to harvest sufficient data to make an effective live demonstration of Portal capability to the Council in mid February. Agreed - the demonstration needs to cover from the broadest perspective (Pacific Salmon –SOS data) to narrower local perspectives. The local perspective would cover – if possible – a listed species abundance, projects from PCSRF and BPA PISCES that impact on that species habitat/range, and water quality information. Tom and Stewart agreed to meet after January 22nd to develop a demonstration and prepare for an initial presentation to the NED SC on Feb 7th.

4) Completion of Channel Management/Portal Administration work descriptions. Tom and Stewart will work to complete the Administration work description. The Channel Management description is complete.