

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

**Time:** 2007-03-07 from 9:00 to 4:00

Location: Conference Room: Northwest Power and Conservation Council  
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Present: Phil Roger (CRITFC), Jen Bayer PNAMP, Van Hare (StreamNet), Bruce Schmidt (StreamNet), Tom Pansky (BPA), Peter Paquet (NPCC), Tom O'Neil (NWHI), Curtis Cude (ODEQ), Joy Paulus (Wa IAC), Jill Leary (LCREP), Tom Iverson (CBFWF), John Piccininni (BPA), Stewart Toshach (NOAA Fisheries Service).  
On phone: Jim Geiselman (BPA) & Dick O'Connor (WDF&W).

**NEXT NED Meeting: 2007-04-04 at NPCC.**

**NED AGENDA ITEMS**

**1) 'Data Management Summit' proposal, planning and responsibilities:**

Stewart explained that no comments had yet been received on the second version of the draft invitation, distributed at the last NED meeting and prepared with significant input from Tom O'Neil.

There was considerable discussion about the proposed summit and eventually confirmation of the main points developed at the last NED meeting: 1) No more than 4 hrs for the summit, 2) products must be available prior to the workshop, 3) decisions needed by executives must be clearly identified and 4) the up-front contact by the facilitators with the participants should be completed ahead of the summit.

It was agreed that Stewart would convene a conference call for interested participants in the week of March 12 to agree on Summit logistics and the invitation. Tom O'Neil offered to try and identify other resources (educational etc) who could help with the Summit planning.

**2) NED Data Portal:**

Briefing to Council

Peter Paquet summarized the 2/13 briefing to the Council on the NED Portal noting that it is not perfect yet, will be evolving, and Council members were generally impressed. Data (and metadata) content needs to be added to populate the Portal. A Portal press release, developed by John Harrison at the NPCC has been posted to the Council web site. Bruce Schmidt asked for a time-line to fix the automatic harvesting function, said that he thought the Portal was not yet ready for production status, and expressed some concern the current state of limited data holdings. Van Hare discussed his recent experience working with the Portal's desk top "push" publishing tool and said that while a "bit clunky", it seemed to work fine. Van offered that an advantage of the publishing tool was to make it easier on data stewards to manage version control (compared to the automatic harvesting approach). Curtis Cude asked about resources available for Portal maintenance. Resources to support a Metadata Channel Steward are included in the current NED Work Plan with funding decisions to be made. Curtis suggested that initial efforts to populate the Portal should take advantage of existing metadata and web services. Tom Iverson suggested working on Columbia Basin anadromous fish as a pilot project, perhaps in conjunction with CBFWA's new Data Management Framework Committee. Tom Pansky said that ESRI is providing technical support to make the auto harvesting work, and agreed with Peter's assessment that the Portal is now built, running reliably, and ready to accept metadata records and web services. Tom considered that the Portal is in production status (i.e., currently running on the World Wide Web of the Internet), and supported Peter's assessment that available resources need to be focused on populating the Portal with data.

Potential Channel Manager Participants: NED Water Quality Group, Upper Columbia Basin Trust, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

Discussion on this item was limited and will be resumed at the next regular NED meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Populating the Portal – needed action, outreach contacts.

Discussion on these items was limited and will be resumed at the next regular NED meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**3) Document discussion:**

Activities Needed to Bring the Subbasin Planning Archive From Framework to Reality (Phil Roger)

Phil summarized the purpose of the effort. The project is one year out with a solicitation for support intended in 2008. Goals include getting data management solutions for subbasin planning in place before the next round of sub-basin planning, providing for existing data to be updated rather than redo all the data. Another goal could be to make the data routinely available to CBFWA for use in the CBFWA "State of the Resource Report". Tom Iverson said the CBFWA perspective was intended to

touch every subbasin plan to extract information to build a database and framework. A framework product was expected by June. Tom also thought that NED was more focused on Federal entities. Stewart asked if this was a new database since CBFWA has said that it is not in the business of building databases for “State of the Resource Report” but would rely on existing database efforts.

Bruce Schmidt thought that the proposed subbasin archive was a good example of the sort of operational planning that is necessary to meet a specific need. Phil also intended that the data collection anticipated could be dove-tailed into larger efforts – for example work being completed by the University of Washington Climate group.

*Data Management Checklist for Projects Funded Under the NPPC Fish and Wildlife Program(Phil) and Data Sharing Guide-StreamNet*

These two documents were discussed together. Bruce said that he had received no comments on the Data Sharing Guide and Phil had not received comments on the Data Management Checklist. **It was agreed that comments would need to be provided to Bruce or Stewart on these documents by March 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Phil and Bruce offered to work together to see if the documents could be combined into a single document. Stewart offered to provide an outline to help bring the documents together and suggested a different title: Best Practices for Regional Information Projects. It was suggested that, if it could be prepared in time, the combined document would be a practical product to present to regional executive in June – however this would involve getting sign off from PNAMP and PNW-RGIC as well as the NED SC. John said there was interest, within BPA to include data management requirements as a part of BPA contracts. Currently, as external materials are developed, they are referred to the PISCES project team as resource material. Jill noted that many contractors were going to new contracts and wanted to know if data management requirements would be added to the new contracts? John said it depended on if they are available and a BPA decision to attach. Phil thought the product could evolve into a NED recommended document – but that the cost of the practices to the projects needed to be manageable.

#### **4) Updating NED Inventory (Curtis Cude and John Piccininni).**

There are two main issues – how to update the inventory of database resources in the short term and, a longer term need to make the database updateable over the web. John Piccininni and David Tetta are coordinating to accomplish some short term updates and John will initiate a further conference call in March. Curtis, John, David and Tom Pansky are working to coordinate a longer term technical solution.

## **B. PNAMP DATA MANAGEMENT AGENDA ITEMS**

### **1) New item: Integrated Status & Trend Monitoring Design. Background and Data Management Implications.**

As an information item, Jen Bayer foreshadowed a PNAMP initiative to pilot the application of methodologies to apply probabilistic designs to monitoring tasks. Phil Larson US EPA and Steve Lanagin from the USF&WS are leading the effort and much of the conceptual mechanisms have already been established. There will be a need, as a part of this effort to consider how data can be managed. As a common methodology is applied there is also potential to manage the data using a common approach.

Collaboration to reach this goal is needed. A pilot effort is being developed for the Lower Columbia River to be lead by Chris Jordan from NOAAF-NWFSC. Bruce Schmidt said that StreamNet had been looking into this for a number of years to try to identify how to manage this type of data and was hiring a new employee who has experience managing statistical information.

## **2) Brief update: Prototype Monitoring Project Inventory.**

The PNAMP pilot project inventory is now complete and requests have been made by the PNAMP SC to users, for user feedback on the effort. There are a number of possibilities but until issues of the actual utility of the system to users and responsibility for supporting further development are made - next steps cannot easily be resolved.

### **C. AFTERNOON WORKSESSION: FCRPS - PNW Strategy for Fish & Habitat Data and Development of Compelling Business Case. 1:00-4:00**

Participants: Jim Geiselman, Cy Smith (Oregon Geographic Information Council), Duane Dippon (US-BLM), Scott Riordan (facilitator from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services), Tom Pansky, Tom O'Neil, Bruce Schmidt, Joy Paulus, John Piccininni, Phil Roger, Jen Bayer, Peter Paquet and Stewart Toshach.

Stewart reviewed the documents available/related to this task:

- Visio-Roles & Goals 2007-02-20
- Business Case for Regional Data Coordination\_2007-03-06
- RME Solicitation Questions 11-14
- Data Strategy Outline draft 1-30-07

Jen Bayer offered to provide an update version of the RME Solicitation Questions.

Jim expressed concern that while the Business case was desirable the group was still a long way from being able to provide the data management strategy information that was envisioned as needed to take to the Fed Caucus and others involved in Recovery Planning. Jim will send out an update to the participants of the January 10<sup>th</sup> "RIMS" meeting, advising them of the status of current efforts.

### **Facilitated Work session**

Scott Riordan took on the task of facilitating a discussion to hone the compelling business case - intended to be delivered, collectively, by NED, PNAMP and PNW-RGIC to regional Executive in June. The discussion was detailed and extensive. Scott will provide a “mind map” of the business case based on what he heard. He intends to have this material available by March 16<sup>th</sup>. The broad focus was “Executive Road Map to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Decision Making”.

The meeting ended at 4:00.