

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

Time: 2007-11-07 from 9:00 to 3:00

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

AGENDA ITEMS

9:00 am

1) Introductions. Present: Tom Pansky (BPA), Bruce Schmidt (StreamNet), Peter Paquet (NPCC), John Piccininni (BPA), Tom O'Neil (NWHI), Tom Iverson (CBFWA), Joy Paulus (WA IAC), Stan Frazier (USBLM) and Stewart Toshach (NOAA-NWFSC). On phone: Jen Pollock (USGS-NBII), Jim Geiselman (BPA), Jen Bayer USGS- PNAMP, Paul Ocker (USACE), Russell Scranton (NOAA-NWRO) and David Tetta (EPA).

2) Update on the Strategy for Managing Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Data for the Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program. Tom O'Neil has completed updates, taking comments into account where he could. The draft was now in the Council packet for the November Council meeting in Idaho. CBFWA was looking for consensus on the document but may not be ready to make recommendations on any data management funding until it hears about overall funding availability.

NED would meet ahead of the December Council meeting to try to develop consensus, for NED, on the funding proposal. We agreed to discuss on November 19th at 1:00 via teleconference with Stewart to set up the call. We also agreed to provide input to Tom O'Neil on the draft PowerPoint – for use at the Council Meeting on November 14th.

3) Best Practices – Establishing a Work Group. (Best Practices_2007-11-05)

Agreed to reestablish the Best Practices work group comprised of Bruce Schmidt, David Tetta, Phil Roger, Curtis Cude, Peter Paquet, Tom Pansky, John Piccinnini, Joy Paulus and Stewart Toshach to complete the draft Best Practices document. Stewart will convene a first meeting.

4) Summit Outcomes and Coordination.

Status of the workshop tasks was summarized.

Task 1 Vision statement was drafted and ready for circulation (Vision statement_2007-10-31_BT)

Task 2 Salmonid Trend and Abundance draft has been circulated
Task 3 Ecosystem and Watershed Health proposal – is in draft.
Task 4 Information Technology paper is the subject of the afternoon work group discussion

It was agreed to convey to Executive Steering Committee that it was desirable to complete the 4 papers as soon as possible and distribute for comments and that more participation in the executive steering committee was supported – through asking for volunteers.

5) PNAMP Data Management Discussion.

Establishing a PNAMP data management work group has proved to be difficult with only a few volunteering to help with the task and the few who had been able to provide some volunteer support (mostly Joy, Bruce, Russell and Stewart) being limited in their availability. There is a shortage of data analysts and specialists in the region who are available for cross agency tasks. Jen has maintained a list of potential data management tasks that PNAMP could do if it had the resources. There was some discussion about what was on the PNAMP list and interest in seeing what these tasks are – understanding that providing data management coordination tasks for PNAMP had not been a NED or PNW-RGIC task in the past. THE NED SC had tried to provide a venue for discussion on PNAMP data management coordination in the regular NED meetings however some PNAMP tasks went beyond coordination. Jen said she would convene a further discussion on Data Management with the PNAMP SC to identify commitment within PNAMP for Data Management tasks. There was some discussion about the differences in missions for different groups. For example, while NED was set up to work on systemic data management issues it was not intended to provide programmatic data management support to PNAMP or other groups or programs.

6.0 Work Session 1:00 to 3:00.

The purpose of the work session was to support Summit task 4 to “begin exploration of data management and technology approaches” which had included a request for NED, PNAMP and PNW-RGIC to provide input. Joy Paulus led the discussion. It was agreed to begin the task with a review of the “Technical Architecture” component of the White Papers - prepared following the 2005 Data Management Summit. See page 33-41 of http://www.nwcouncil.org/ned/meetings/2005_12/Final%20May%2025-26%20Data%20Workshop_11-30-05.pdf

Mike Beatty, Stewart Toshach, Joy Paulus and others who had authored portions of these papers agreed to go through relevant sections of the papers and identify the most important ideas that needed to be conveyed to executive in order for the execs to be able to understand data management and technology approaches. The work group agreed that the major challenge was not technology itself but how and when it was used, and what business arrangements, agreements and cost sharing were necessary to successfully deploy and apply any regional scale information technology. It was agreed to work on a draft for discussion at the next NED meeting (date to be determined). It was agreed to write up a one page description of this task for distribution to the Executive Summit participants with Joy volunteering to write the first draft.