

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

**Time:** 2008-01-09 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**

1) Tom Pansky (BPA), Phil Roger (CRITFC), Bruce Schmidt (StreamNet), Peter Paquet (NPCC), Tom O'Neil (NWHI), Keith Marcoe (Lower Columbia River Partnership), Tom Iverson (CBFWA) and Stewart Toshach (NOAA-NWFSC), Bart Butterfield (StreamNet/IDFG). On phone: Jen Bayer (PNAMP), David Tetta (EPA), Jim Geiselman (BPA), John Piccininni (BPA).

2) 2008 NED Meeting Schedule and Changing Staff Roles

The meeting schedule for 2008 was set as follows - meetings will be convened on the first Wednesday of each month as follows:

Feb, 6, Mar 5, April, 2, May 7, Jun 4, July 2, Aug 6, Sept 3, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3

Staff Roles:

Stewart explained that his work tasks now meant that he could not continue to work as full time coordinator for NED. In addition NOAA had fulfilled it's cost share and in-kind obligations under the NED MOU.

While further decisions need to be made about how best to meet ongoing NED Coordination needs the current NED work plan included a budget item for a Regional Data Coordinator.

Information Management in Puget Sound:

There is increased interest in improving information management in Puget Sound. The efforts in the Columbia and Puget Sound may be complementary. Follow up tasks from the 2007 Summit provide for increasing focus on the Puget Sound area.

The EPA is planning separately to make a proposal for information sharing to the Puget Sound Partnership. EPA is proposing that the Puget Sound Partnership create a WIKI communication

tool to improve communication about information management in Puget Sound. Molly O'Neil, EPA CIO will be making a presentation to the Puget Sound Partnership on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

The NED SC asked Stewart to make contact with the EPA effort and the Puget Sound Partnership (through the NED Co-Chairs) to brief them on the regional efforts that have been completed over the last few years and to understand how the Puget Sound effort relates to the work that NED and it's partners, PNAMP and PNW-RGIC and others have completed. Stewart is scheduled to provide a short briefing on regional information coordination to the Puget Sound Partnership on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

There was also interest from the NED Steering Committee to arrange for a discussion with EPA on how this effort might be consistent with the information management efforts that NED, PNAMP, PNW-RGIC and other groups have been working on. Stewart will be meeting with the EPA on Jan 30<sup>th</sup>.

### 3) Summit Outcomes and Ongoing Coordination.

Comments on draft work proposals from the Summit were received by Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. Nancy Tosta from Ross and Associates is summarizing the comments. It was agreed that the Summit Outcome materials would need to be framed in plain language one pagers in addition to any technical products that are developed. Agreed that the public communications specialists at the NPCC the BPA and other agencies could be used to help develop these products. Some concern was expressed about the amount of time it is taking to pull together the next steps from the Summit. More concern was expressed about the proposed timeline for another Summit in April.

Jim Gieselman suggested that the latest Biop language should be reviewed and considered with respect to Data needs and considered as a part of the Summit deliberations.

Some members sought clarification from the NED Co-chairs on the role of NED. Currently NED is operating without an MOU. Clarification from the Co-chairs is sought on the Co-Chairs plans for renewing the MOU.

Peter summarized the Council's current interest in adopting Best Practices materials as they become available.

### 4) Best Practices – Establishing a Work Group.

Stewart and Joy have completed more work on the Best Practices task which could be a component of Task 4 from the summit effort. Joy Paulus has a new appointment with the Washington State Department of Information Services, Management and Oversight of Strategic Technology Division, leading the state GIS coordination effort – which means her future work in NED will be limited to helping to complete this task.

There was a lengthy discussion on how the Best Practices, Summit., Puget Sound, and Columbia River Information Management Strategy related and could best be fitted together. It was agreed

that it is desirable to combine the Best Practices task and the Summit task 4 and that the Columbia River Information Management Strategy is an example of a framework that could nest within a broader regional framework effort if this is needed by Regional Executive.

#### 5) PNAMP Information Technology Management Position

Jen Bayer explained the description for Needed Information Technology Management position GS-2200 GS-11/12. PNAMP is looking for input and comments on the proposal as soon as possible. The work will be funded by the USBrec.

Stewart suggested that the anticipated tasks be prioritized so that there was a higher probability that any one particular task would be completed - particular there was a need to complete the protocols and data dictionary content – tasks that could be completed without first completing or deploying Protocol Manager.

Jen announced that she is also planning on attending ‘another’ collaboration workshop. This will be with the Fraser Basin Council, a NGO in British Columbia that is working with State Provincial Partners and First Nations to improve monitoring efforts.

#### 6) Lower Columbia River Partnership interest in using the NED Portal.

Keith Marcoe affirmed an interest by the Partnership in working collaboratively to use the NED portal as a way of sharing and exchanging information for the Lower Columbia. Keith will work directly with Tom Pansky at BPA.

#### 7) Metadata Training

The Steering Committee agreed to work collaboratively with PNAMP and others as necessary to help convene a Metadata Training Workshop in 2008.

### **Noon to 1:00 - Lunch**

### **1:00 to 3:00.**

#### 1) Completion of A Strategy for Managing Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Data for the Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program and funding recommendations to the Council.

Peter provided a planned summary presentation to the Fish Four Group of the NPCC planned for January 15<sup>th</sup>. There was lots of useful input on the materials and presentation and Peter agreed to accommodate the comments ahead of the presentation. Peter also agreed to present the same materials to the FCRPS Federal Caucus which was also scheduled to meet on Jan 15<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Iverson thought the next step was to work the proposal through the MAG group.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:00.**

**Next Meeting** is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup> at NPCC Downtown Portland from 9:00 to 3:00.