

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

Time: 2008-04-02 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

AGENDA ITEMS

9:00

1) Introductions: Tom Pansky (BPA), Tom O'Neil (NWHI), Stan Frazier (BLM), Scott Rumsey (NOAA-NWRO), Peter Paquet (NPCC), and Stewart Toshach (NOAA-NWFSC). On phone: John Piccininni (BPA), Steve Rentmeester (ISEMP), Phil Roger (CRITFC) and David Tetta (EPA). Apologies: Jen Bayer (PNAMP), Jen Pollock (NBII), Bruce Schmidt (StreamNet).

2) Summit Update: The SC discussed the upcoming Summit. Neither NED, PNAMP or PNW-RGIC had up-to-date information about the Summit except for the planned meeting date of May 28th and the 4 work summaries. Status of the four tasks was discussed and thought to be as follows:

Task 1. The Summit goals and objectives statement has been completed by NED, PNWRGIC, NED and others.

Task 2. Salmonid Status and Trend. This task is with the NOAA-NWRO. NWRO staff have met with CBFWA to discuss and it is understood that a draft product has been prepared.

Task 3. This task, Ecosystem and Watershed Health in Puget Sound is with John Stein (NWFSC) and Josh Baldi (WA Ecology). Arrangements for coordinated data management for Puget Sound are the subject of ad-hoc discussion by the Puget Sound Partnership and other state agencies. No confirmed information is available about the outcome. Until this is clarified this task is delayed. As previously reported, the Puget Sound Federal Caucus sent a discussion paper to the State suggesting that the State work with Federal agencies and others using an information framework approach to guide the effort.

Task 4. A proposal for a Regional Information System Framework approach to guide regional information mgt choices and technologies has been sent to the Regional Summit Executives from the NED SC.

Steering Committee members expressed some concern about the amount of time left to work on or develop Summit materials in order to ensure Summit success and concern that they have not heard more about Summit plans or intended outcomes.

3) NED Work Plan Update.

Peter summarized the Status of the Plan.

Two elements from the Plan – additions to the StreamNet and NWHI’s statements of work have been forwarded to the BPA Budget Oversight Group (BOG) from the Council.

No other work NED elements have been approved funding. Tasks that would be supported amongst those elements include support for the NED Coordinator, support for a Portal Data Steward and support for development of regional data quality standards and best practices. There was consensus that without support for these tasks the core NED work cannot proceed.

There was discussion about the pending negotiations related to the Biological Opinion. The SC does not have any knowledge of the extent to which the Biop will define a need for data management coordination and integration. It was thought current proposals, if agreed to, would add with perhaps another \$50M/yr to the Bonneville Fish and Wildlife program, mostly to provide additional funding for Tribal and State habitat and other salmonid recovery efforts. Data management implications are unknown.

Change to Current NED Coordinator Role.

Stewart outlined that he is no longer available as the part-time NED Coordinator. His work assignment with NOAA does not provide support for this task. Since the NED MOU had expired, in October 2007, both the NOAA-NWFSC and the Council have provided resources on an interim basis, through Peter and Stewart, to support the NED coordination role.

There was consensus that successful regional data sharing and exchange needed to be based on a strong foundation. At a minimum: a new (or renewed) MOU, a cost share and in-kind participation and a full time coordinator function were considered to be prerequisites for success.

4) Puget Sound Update: See 1, Task 3 above.

5) PNAMP Data Management Discussion

PNAMP has advertised for a short-term data specialist position to help complete the Protocol Manager task with funding from the Bureau of Land Management.

6) NED Community Page Development Work Group. Work on this group is proceeding under the guidance of Jennifer Pollock with work group meetings to be convened as needed. There is doubt that a product can be completed in time for the proposed Executive Summit follow up meeting – but it should be possible to brief the Summit on this effort and the Portal if Summit participants wanted this information.

7) Best Practices doc. Work on this task is currently dependent on funding of the NED Coordinator position.

8) Metadata Work Group: Purpose, cross-walk task, training. Work on this effort will continue with David Tetta coordinating work group meetings as needed. Currently this group is looking at how data can be gathered that is compliant with the FGDC Biological Profile given alternative tools and methods. Is there a consistent template, how useful is it, and how many groups could use it? There are two other threads: 1) work with Mike Beaty and Steve Rentmeester to see how the Protocol Manager captures metadata and collaborate with the NED Portal effort; and 2), complete a cross walk of content in the different templates. There may be potential to use an existing EPA contractor to help with this task.