

# MINUTES

## 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative - Columbia River Basin Team

June 14, 2007  
Sheraton Portland Airport  
Portland, Oregon

### 1. ATTENDEES:

Stephen Phillips, PSMFC	Paul Heimowitz, USFWS
Jim Athearn, PSMFC	Kevin Aitkin, USFWS
Bill Zook, PSMFC	David Britton, USFWS
Greg Kovalchuk, PSMFC	Jill Hardiman, USGS
Fred Partridge, IDFG	Scott Smith, USGS
Amy Ferriter, IDA	Joan Cabreza, EPA
Jim Gores, ODFW	Blaine Parker, CRITFC
Randy Henry, OMB	Linda Drees, NPS
Pam Meacham, WDFW	Keith Hatch, BIA
Eric Anderson, WDFW	Mark Sytsma, PSU
Sam Chan, Oregon Sea Grant	Robyn Draheim, PSU
Andrew Miller, Ecological Applications	Steve Wells, PSU
Howard Burge, USFWS Idaho FRO	
Tim Counihan, USGS	
Glenn Dolphin, OSMB	
Laura Gephart, CRITFC	
Scott Lund, US Bureau of Reclamation	
Janna Nichols, Washington Scuba Alliance	
Hal Broughton, Private Citizen	
John Holcomb, USFWS	
Bill Anderson, Private Citizen	

### 2. Comments and Approval of February Minutes:

There were no additional comments on the minutes - they will be posted on the 100<sup>th</sup> Initiative Meridian web site: <http://www.100thmeridian.org/ColumbiaRT.asp>.

### 3. I-5 Zebra Mussel Interception:

Jim Gores described events leading up to the interception of a boat from Missouri (Lake of the Ozarks) that was headed for Vancouver, B.C. and, ultimately, Sprout Lake. It was first noticed heading north on I-5 in southern Oregon by an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) employee who notified Jim Gores. Because Oregon had no authority to stop the boat, Jim contacted Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Washington's new law authorizing boat inspections will not be in force until July 1 so Eric Anderson contacted the Washington State Patrol and they pulled the boat over at the Ridgeway Weigh Station. Eric inspected the boat and found some small zebra mussels attached. Although the boat had been out of the water since February and the mussels attached to the hull were dead, Eric held it until the holding tanks could be cleaned the next day (used 5% bleach). The State Patrol had contacted the news media and there was good coverage of the whole event. Pam Meacham mentioned that they expect more boats to be taken to Spout Lake and the Canadian Department of

Agriculture is also aware and involved. Robyn Draheim said the company selling the boats has offices in several different states and she (and Steve Wells) will be giving them additional information regarding potential ANS problems.

Pam Meacham mentioned that, on the same day (May 7), another boat was stopped at the Cle Elum weigh station and it had dead zebra mussels attached. It was from Wisconsin.

There was a discussion about state laws and authorities and Eric said that Washington's new law allows setting up check stations but not stopping boats at random. Jim G said that Oregon is working on new legislation to allow stopping boats but it would not be in effect until about 2009. Randy Henry mentioned that the Oregon State Invasive Species Council discussed signing at the borders - a complicated process but at least it has begun. Randy also said that they set up a pressure washer at a dump station by Diamond Lake last year for about \$500. Mark Sytsma suggested that another site for a washing station might be along highway 97. He thinks a lot of boats coming from the lower Colorado basin travel this route to access the many major central Oregon lakes and reservoirs. Fred Partridge said that Idaho laws aren't adequate right now to stop boats and it is doubtful it will happen in the next legislative session.

Eric said that Washington has a boat inspection form and they can also accept inspection certifications from other states. He recommended coordination among the states to develop a common form and protocol. Nobody was aware of whether California provides an inspection certificate at their border stations. It was noted that, since the discovery of quagga mussels at Lake Mead, California has reopened 3 check stations 24/7. Out of more than 15,000 boats inspected so far, they have found mussels on at least 7. Linda Drees said that the National Park Service (NPS) is inspecting boats leaving marinas at Lake Mead, but are unable to inspect most of the day-use boats using most of the other launch sites on the lake.

#### **4. 2007-2008 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative Priorities:**

Paul Heimowitz said that USFWS funds available this year include 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian program (about \$75,000 for the West Coast), CALFED (\$200,000 - probably for work only in California), fish restoration (\$50,000 that can be used for certain ANS activities), and some money for Asian carp prevention. Stephen Phillips said that their Congressional appropriations have been slow in arriving this year and this affects how other funds are used. He also mentioned that one of last year's projects, boat hauler outreach and education, wasn't done because Bill Zook was put on the quagga mussel problem in January. Generally, Paul said, USFWS funds in the west can be shared/spread around so long as they go to activities that prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS). Stephen suggested that one large project could be funded with pooled money so long as there was agreement on specific activities.

There was a lengthy discussion on hauler outreach. Bill Zook said that it is important to fund hauler outreach but it has been difficult to get one-on-one discussions. When they tried 5-6 years ago the haulers were not very receptive. Mark Sytsma said that there are web pages that list boats and haulers and Bill added that the word is also getting out about inspections and boats being held up to be cleaned. Other ideas included targeting boat sellers/buyers (Kevin Aitkin) since there are more of them than haulers, finding a small group willing to cooperate to set up a self-certification program (Paul H) and placing some peer pressure on other haulers, or paying haulers (e.g., \$50/boat) to clean boats (Mark Sytsma). There was a general agreement that it would be better for the haulers to have boats inspected before they leave and avoid delays during transport and that the haulers would probably do something if it is convenient and doesn't cost them. Randy Henry said that 3-4,000 boats are being moved by commercial haulers into Oregon from out of state each year. Stephen Phillips recommended that we focus funding on a project for outreach this summer to include direct contacts and visits with haulers. He cited the past effectiveness of Bill Z's "road trips". Eric Anderson supported education as the most important aspect. He said they had contacted the pilot car association president and they hadn't heard anything about ANS.

Another suggestion was to target boat registration applications. Apparently some information is being provided now and it could be done in most states although there is a time delay before boaters must register (e.g., 60 days in Oregon and 90 days in Washington).

A second proposal was for a pilot wash station and an evaluation of its success. Bill Z recommended a portable wash station that can be moved to where boats are located. There was some discussion about oversight and liability, as well as contamination from washing runoff. Randy H said, at Diamond Lake, boats were escorted to the cleaning station and the owners washed the boats under state supervision. He felt the most important part is the inspection because cleaning is not always adequate. Randy said they tried to borrow a cleaning station from the U.S. Forest Service (they use them for weed control) but none were available. They can be purchased for \$70-80,000.

Paul H also mentioned that Jeff Herod of the USFWS Sacramento office is moving to another assignment and Dr. Denise Walther will be taking over his ANS duties.

#### **5. Strategies for Dealing with Aquatic Nuisance Species:**

Drew Miller discussed the Corps of Engineers' Environmental Research and Development Center (ERDC). He described their background, activities, and funding sources. They are interested in becoming involved in ANS activities in the west if there are any opportunities for partnering.

#### **6. Watercraft Inspection Training/Video:**

Bill Zook talked about the watercraft inspection training program that was developed mainly for boating law enforcement professionals. Because of the large number of agencies and public groups that were involved, a video was produced to facilitate training. Last winter the training was modified to meet various needs, including watercraft decontamination training for more incident responders to react to increased reports from law enforcement officials. Bill and Wen Baldwin have delivered the training to eight groups since March of this year in seven different western states from Alaska to Kansas. Over 300 biologists, boating law and fish and game enforcement officers, Coast Guard Auxiliary officers, boarder inspection officers, marina operators, park managers and agency administrators have received the training to date. Eight additional trainings are scheduled for California over the next two years through a contract with the California Department of Fish and Game and training for ODFW and the Oregon Marine Board is scheduled for July 24 in Salem. Bill expects that the demand for training will remain high for the next 2-4 years.

During the course of the trainings, Bill is maintaining a list of qualified individuals interested in becoming "responders". If funding becomes available, he would like to begin offering more directed and intensive decontamination training for these people at Lake Mead beginning this fall. He said that benefits of the program include serving as a rallying point for state and regional groups and drawing attention to issues through increased news coverage and public outreach.

Bill also discussed updating the training video to make it more generic for general public outreach. The Coast Guard would also like a video to use in their outreach. Changes that Bill suggested include new information on quagga mussels in the west (including distribution), improved inspection sequences, additional information on decontamination, revised legal authority information (clarify information and make it more generic), and more information in the impact section. Bill would like to update the video clips and shoot the video in high definition format. He recommended two options, either a basic upgrade that would cost about \$7,500, or a major overhaul for about \$12,500. The latter would include all of the changes in the basic upgrade plus more onsite footage at a major facility and an upgraded instruction manual. He would like to have the new video made this summer so that it would be available for the next winter training season. Mark Sytsma recommended that a 10-minute version be produced to show to

agency administrators and others needing just general information. Paul Heimowitz suggested that Bill coordinate with the National Park Service (NPS) to develop the 10-minute version since they have already done one for invasive plants. Bill will prepare something to send out for review and he asked for help identifying speakers, locations, and script changes.

#### **7. Lake Mead Update and Containment:**

David Britton provided an update on the quagga mussel activities at Lake Mead. The National Park Service's zebra/quagga mussel response plan is on line at [www.nature.nps.gov/biology/quagga/](http://www.nature.nps.gov/biology/quagga/). David said that Bob McMahon did a preliminary age class analysis of Lake Mead quaggas and found at least two year classes. Since then some quagga mussels up to 35 mm have been found, suggesting a third year class - thus, a 2004 introduction. David said that veliger sampling confirmed quagga mussel distribution throughout the lower basin, upper basin, narrows, and "pretty much everywhere". Even more disturbing is the recent upward trend in veliger density from 0.5/l to 60/l which is equivalent to going from 500 to 60,000/m<sup>3</sup>. David said that water temperature doesn't seem to be limiting for the quaggas and he expects an "explosion" in juveniles and young adults in the next couple years. The density ratio between 2005 and 2006 was 1 to 160. A long term monitoring plan for quagga mussels is being developed by the NPS for Lake Mead (Contact: Kent Turner, National Park Service's chief resource manager at Lake Mead).

#### **8. CRB Dreissenid Monitoring Committee:**

The Monitoring Committee's goal is early detection and monitoring and Steve Wells said their objectives are to determine where to monitor, who should do the monitoring, and what type of monitoring to use. He described existing monitoring activities and discussed where there are monitoring gaps and how they can be filled.

There was a discussion about the PSU data base and a link to the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian web site. David B said that he could access the PSU data and download it to the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian site. Stephen P asked if the data could to be coordinated more frequently, possibly every month or so. He also suggested that Steve W focus on getting the Columbia River Basin sites into the data base, including Canada. It was agreed to have a conference call to firm up project direction. Steve W will try to update the data base prior to the call.

Scott Smith talked about minimizing the economic and ecological damage of zebra/quagga mussels through cooperative early detection research. Some ideas included developing new diagnostic systems to rapidly screen for mussel veligers, developing advanced technologies (e.g., high-resolution sonar, remote operated vehicles), developing improved methods to identify sites within the Columbia River Basin at high risk of mussel infestation, and establishing a rapid response dive team or a volunteer diver program. Potential liabilities with diving options were discussed and Paul H suggested that for commercial marinas, it might be possible to have commercial divers look for mussels at a minimal additional cost. Jim Athearn also said that the navigations locks on the Columbia and Snake Rivers are unwatered annually and could be inspected in the dry.

#### **9. Individual Agency Updates:**

**IDFG:** Fred Partridge said the Idaho state plan is set to on line next week for 30-day public review. They will have three public meetings (north, east, Boise). He also said that they plan to sample their veliger sites twice this year.

Amy Ferriter said that \$4 million will be available again this year for Eurasian watermilfoil control and they expect to get more in the future. They think last year's control efforts probably worked well. She said they are asking the milfoil control staff to also monitor for quagga mussels since they scuba dive almost every water body. Idaho's goal is to eradicate milfoil in all "eradicable" water bodies.

**Oregon State Marine Board:** Glen Dolphin described their newsletter "Underway" that goes out with boat registrations. They also held workshops last winter and have prepared new litter bags.

**Environmental Protection Agency:** Joan Cabreza said that there is now an invasive species page on the EPA web site. She also has a newsletter and asked everyone to send her items. Finally, their ballast water lawsuit is moving slowly.

**Portland State University:** Mark Sytsma said that Oregon passed a new ballast water bill and the Department of Environmental Quality should start implementation in July. This will include hiring a full time ballast water program staffer at DEQ.

**Oregon Sea Grant:** Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) is working with Sam Chan and the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) on an invasive species awareness campaign. They want to make sure they get the right kind of message out and they will be refining it to assure they reach the right target audiences. They are also working with users on how/why there may be barriers to ANS movement prevention. They plan to evaluate the campaign's success.

Sam said that the US Forest Service, Region 6, has adopted protocol for all monitoring and survey crews to include ANS. Right now they are conducting a cursory, pilot effort.

Sam's graduate student, Scott Wiedemer has prepared a guide for managing ANS and he will be providing it to watershed management councils.

Sam reported on his recent trip to China where he looked at their ANS problems - what we got from them and those species they got from us (e.g., spartina and water hyacinth) - and shared technology (mitten crabs). He said they are looking at a broader perspective than just species, such as estuary health.

**ODFW:** Jim Gores reported on a new vector for spreading dreissenids. Apparently quagga mussels were imported through the pet trade attached to moss (algae) balls. Jim was not sure where Singapore had imported them from.

**USFWS:** Paul Heimowitz handed out a copy of his "Goby Alert" and discussed the recent new sighting in the lower Columbia River basin. He also emailed it to the CRB 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative mailing list.

Paul said that the national Asian carp management plan will be out soon and recommended that folks get involved. Kevin Aitkin is doing a risk evaluation for all Asian carps that might come into the Columbia River Basin. It will be out for review soon. Paul also said that he has printed Asian carp watch cards and they are available for anyone who wants some.

**NPS:** Linda Drees said that they have been involved in boater education at the national parks and that the USFWS has helped with some funding for that program.

**WDFW:** Eric Anderson reported that, for the last couple months, all boats at there marinas infested with tunicates have been cleaned by divers. He also said that one species, *Ciona sp*, has pretty much disappeared. They will be doing a baseline survey of all marinas over the next couple years using drop cams. They are also continuing the Atlantic salmon surveys.

Eric said they will be hiring a second ballast water inspector in July. They are developing a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Coast Guard on inspections. WDFW has also hired three temporary

employees who will be monitoring for zebra mussels at all high-use areas and fishing tournaments or the next six months.

Eric said that the Senate Bill 5923 passed. It provides funds for ANS enforcement and prevention, closed gaps in existing laws, and provided new law for random check stations anywhere in the state. They are presently drafting administrative regulations to implement the new law. It will require that all watercraft stop at check stations or face a gross misdemeanor charge. Eric said, if a person hauling a boat that contains ANS stops and complies with decontamination requirements, they will not be cited. Eric provided a copy of the sign they will be putting up at any place with a boat ramp. These are more directive than past signs, in keeping with the new legislation. They will also be installing signs all 31 highway routes into Washington.

There is a free inspection program at all six regional WDFW offices. They are providing six washers for decontamination and developing a training curriculum for all field employees. Eric said that he now has ANS logos on his truck for more visibility and there have been emphasis patrols with the law enforcement division in eastern Washington. They are planning another one statewide for June 30 with about 70 officers expected to be involved.

#### **10. Public Comment:**

There was no additional public comment.

**11. Next Meeting:** The next meeting was set for October 23, 2007, in Portland, Oregon.

#### **12. Work Assignments:**

- **Randy Henry** will look into boater traffic on Highway 97 from California into central Oregon to determine potential for establishment of a wash station.
- **Paul Heimowitz** has Asian carp cards if any one is interested.
- We need to develop a zebra/quagga card - no one has the lead on this.
- **David Britton** will link the NPS rapid response plan on 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative website.
- **Paul H/Stephen Phillips** will follow up on house boats that entered Canada, headed for Sprout Lake, and also follow up with Department of Fisheries and Oceans [?] (Hooton) on monitoring and rapid response.
- **Paul H/Stephen P** will continue to develop priorities for 2007- 2008 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian projects, including commercial boat hauler outreach, including creating/updating list of haulers, pilot cars and brokers. Outreach to/partnerships with commercial dive companies, dive clubs and shops was also recommended.
- **Randy Henry and Fred Partridge** will check into registries of boats/owners of a certain size (> 30 feet) that come from out of state. This list should also be helpful in developing out of state hauler/broker information. In the future, all of these boats need to receive ANS information before entering the state.
- **All states** need to check whether quagga mussels are specifically prohibited in their particular states and, if not, amend state laws.

- Development of a common boat inspection certificate that can be recognized by each Western State (Eric Anderson idea; no lead assigned)
- **Bill Zook** will prepare his video proposal in more detail.
- **Monitoring Committee:**
  1. **Mark Sytsma** will speak with PSU's Rich Miller on putting the PSU monitoring data points presented by Steve Wells into a spreadsheet/GIS format. After Mark discusses this with Rich, Mark will schedule a monitoring committee conference call.
  2. **Jim Gores** will check into the State of Wyoming's monitoring activities and get this information to Steve Wells.
- **Rapid Response:**
  1. **Paul H/Stephen P** will revisit the National Response Plan (HMS) and how it fits into the CRB Rapid Response Plan.
  2. **Paul H/Stephen P** will add materials from the National Park Service Rapid Response Plan (pages 27-39) to the CRB rapid response plan
  3. **Paul H/Stephen P** will shorten the rapid response plan letter of agreement and add a fact sheet to the letter. They will include more direct language about use of ICS in the letter and plan. **Stephen P/Paul H** will proof the contact list.
- **Stephen P** will schedule a scenario-based rapid response table top exercise for October 24 and hire contractor to assist in the exercise.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative - Columbia River Basin Team

June 15, 2007  
Sheraton Portland Airport  
Portland, Oregon

### 1. Overview of Incident Command System

John Holcomb of the USFWS described the incident command system (ICS) and how it is being applied to a variety of activities nationwide. It has been adopted by all agencies, including the ANS Task Force. The group discussed how our program would fit into national response planning and how to relate that to pre-identification actions. We also discussed how to set up a framework within the various states, identify leads, and response protocols. It was agreed that ICS should be the framework used to organize the response under the Columbia Basin *Dreissena* plan. It was also recognized that most of the CRB team members would be working in a technical support role (e.g., within the Planning Section), and that the major ICS roles likely would be filled by existing incident management staff within their agencies. It was noted that some agencies, such as the Corps of Engineers and others, who have not been actively engaged recently will also need to be brought into the discussions. The U.S. Coast Guard was cited as a good training resource based on their use of ICS.

### 2. Integration of ICS into CRB Rapid Response Plan

Linda Drees talked about the National Park Service (NPS) Incident Management Team established in response to the discovery of quagga mussels in Lake Mead. They prepared a response plan in a few days (available on their web site). Linda said next steps for them would be to determine what additional training is needed and who should get it.

### 3. Review of Latest Draft of CRB Rapid Response Plan

Stephen Phillips and Paul Heimowitz gave a status report for the CRB plan and said all materials are available on the web site. It was suggested that information in the NPS plan should be included - probably change objective 4 to follow the use of ICS.

The draft letter to agency administrators requesting a commitment to participate in rapid response activities was discussed. It was agreed that the letter should be simplified and more direct.

### 4. Planning/Scheduling a Tabletop Exercise

The need for a tabletop exercise was discussed and it was tentatively agreed to try to set up something for October 24. A follow-up discussion is needed to identify basic objectives, list of attendees, and what additional resources would be necessary. USFWS has funds to procure a contractor who has experience in design and administration of emergency response drills.

**5. Next Meeting:** Tentatively set for October 24 (the day after the CRB Team meeting) pending the outcome of more discussions regarding the tabletop exercise.

### Work Assignments

**Agency Letter:** Stephen Phillips/Paul Heimowitz will modify the letter.

**Tabletop Exercise:** Stephen/Paul will set up a conference call to confirm the desire for a tabletop exercise and, as necessary, to organize the event.

