

MINUTES

100th Meridian Initiative - Columbia River Basin Team Meeting

October 23, 2007
Heathman Lodge
Vancouver, Washington

1. Attendees:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Stephen Phillips, Chair, PSMFC | Paul Heimowitz, USFWS |
| Jim Athearn, Rec. Sec., PSMFC | Kevin Aitkin, USFWS |
| Bill Zook, PSMFC | David Britton, USFWS (phone) |
| Jill Hardiman, USGS | Rachel Winston, BSU |
| Amy Ferriter, IDA | Joan Cabreza, EPA |
| Jim Gores, ODFW | Blaine Parker, CRITFC |
| Randy Henry, OMB | Keith Hatch, BIA |
| Eric Anderson, WDFW | Mark Sytsma, PSU |
| Sam Chan, Oregon Sea Grant | Steve Wells, PSU |
| Alan Pleus, WDFW | Amy Gaskill, USFWS |
| Mark Schneider, NMFS | Jim Irish, BPA |
| Denise Walther, USFWS | Marla Harrison, Port of Portland |

2. Comments and Approval of June 2007 CRB Team Minutes:

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

2. Update on SW/Lake Mead Quagga: David Britton, USFWS

Lake Powell

- veligers were found once in Lake Powell, since then no more veligers have been found, dive sampling have found no adults

Lake Havasu

- single adult found near Scottsdale
- expect to find more all throughout southern Arizona
- Lake Pleasant - so far is mussel-free but David expects that to change

Dixon Reservoir and Lake Skinner

- \$5.9 M for control allocated by S. CA Metropolitan Water District- they have spent \$2.8 million in the last 6 months on chlorination facilities, planning to build isolation barriers in Colorado River Aqueduct

Agency Coordination

- CA legislation passed to cover boat inspections, decontamination, quarantine (including facilities - lakes, boat launches, etc.); can transfer quarantine authority to other agencies

Colorado system

- quagga reproduction is increasing exponentially
- reports of boats overheating
- veliger densities in Boulder Basin almost off the charts (>1000 veligers/l)
- reproduction was continuous - no pause like in other, warmer areas (e.g., Oklahoma); they
- also looked healthier than Oklahoma population
- no temperature/nutrient limitations noted

Meetings:

- 100th Meridian meeting in Las Vegas 27-28 Nov 2007: all basins included; more details out soon
- meeting in Taos, NM this week to discuss how to prevent introductions of quaggas
- will be a meeting in a couple weeks in St. George, UT - also on prevention of quagga spread

California

- reservoirs reporting quagga mussels: Lake Otay Reservoir, San Vicente, Lake Mathews

Clear Lake, California

- Mark S asked about the status of the veliger sample from Clear Lake, CA. Were veligers found by Bureau of Reclamation's Denver Lab? - no reports confirmed by anyone else (David said he will check on this)
- concern because there are 64 boat ramps on Clear Lake that would need to be shut down and inspected
- no reports of enforcement (citations)

Paul Heimowitz - any discussion about treatment in southern California of other areas in the Southwest?

- David - Metropolitan Water District did a chlorine treatment in the Colorado River aqueduct (just to keep the water flowing)
- Denise W - also looking for more environmentally friendly long-term controls
 - Susan Ellis wants recommendations from their science panel at the ANSTF meeting to develop a tool box for areas not yet infested

4. Hauler Outreach Project: Jim Athearn

- handout - Boat Hauler Outreach outline

- talked about this program a couple meeting ago - follow-up to what Kim Webb, USFWS, did a few years ago
- focus initial efforts on boat haulers and trucking associations (national and state) - web search, use Kim Webb's (USFWS, Stockton) old list, other lists - have about 900 - 1000 truckers on mailing list
- drafted letters to truckers and associations - emphasis on not hauling "dirty" boats and consequences in the west if boats are intercepted with ANS present
- next steps - finalize letters, decide what info to include with letters (non-technical), finalize mailing lists
- possible later activities - letters to pilot car companies and boat brokers; letters to state departments of transportation; advertise in trucker magazines and other ;publications; monitor
- web links that request bids for hauling boats; meetings with industry; training; incentives
- there was discussion of a hauler certification program, AKA "Green Hauler" (some interest in feedback to Kim from her original letters)

Randy Henry - ports of entry discussion

- ANS flyer with hauler permit applications
- if truckers stop at ports, can they be inspected?
- loop holes - e.g., HWY 395 - can bypass port of entry
- inspector can park boat with mussels (cease work order to trucking company) - ODOT inspects
- permits for oversize - repeat haulers can get around permits - didn't know % of boats needing permits (about 30-40 boats per day into Oregon)

Eric A - in last couple weeks there have been 3 boats coming into Washington with zebra mussels and two of them had been professionally cleaned before they left, WDFW cited 2 trucking companies 2 weeks ago hauling boats with zebra mussels - fine was \$500 (maximum fine is \$1000)

Blaine P - can boats be inspected if they are shrink wrapped? Probably clean and no water if they are wrapped

5. Monitoring Activities: Steve Wells

- described substrate monitoring veliger monitoring - Lake Powell (NPS negative, PSU negative, BOR positive with PCR - retest with microscope on new samples got some veligers but not definitive) still need to resolve discrepancies
- still working on data base information - base maps not on their web site yet; maps not on their web site yet (David B's data is on Google maps but Steve said that the PSU data needs to be updated more frequently which isn't easy to do on Google)
 - Paul H - don't want folks having to enter data in multiple sites
 - SQL data base - individuals can have password and enter data
 - Mark S - sustainability issue - long-term maintenance of sites

- Paul H - any maps for diving sites? Steve W – there is SW data by species presence/absence and details describing sampling methods

- sampling techniques - use a variety (veligers, adults, etc.); east coast folks say to use settling plates

Amy Ferriter - Idaho surveys by IDFG (veligers), Idaho Power Company (?), and Department of Agriculture (various methods)

Eileen Ryce - Montana is doing its own sampling

- they prioritize their waters with the highest priority getting sampled most frequently
- they also walk shorelines (coordinated with other field work)

Alan P - literature documentation correlation between boat movement and mussel presence any info on chemical markers for settling?

- Steve W - seems to be gravity - they grow to a certain size and sink - secondary settlement movement to more favorable sites; high mortality between primary and secondary settlement

Mark S - Metropolitan Water District found adult quagga mussels were very mobile

There was discussion of Tom Whittier's (OSU) calcium data - Mark S said could be used to help focus monitoring efforts

- possibly get Tom back to next meeting for an update on his efforts

6. Watercraft Inspection Training/Video: Bill Zook

- twenty training sessions have been conducted between 4/22 and 11/1; 800 trainees certified from about 50 agencies/organizations
- program benefits - information out to more people, rally point for state/regional programs, and news coverage and outreach opportunities
- opportunity for additional training - continue for at least 2 more years and include all western states/groups
- need new outreach program training for big money (Corporate) bass tournament directors
- need training for boat haulers and marina operators
- new training video - partly replace live training
 - 30 - 40 minute video with various clips for different media use
 - currently in production - filming in Lake Superior, Mississippi/St. Croix rivers, Colorado River, lakes Mead and Havasu, and Columbia River projects
 - interviews of 30 experts in 9 western states representing 12 water user groups
 - aerial and underwater footage
 - edit in November and complete in December

Don Chapman (film contractor) - they have 9 hours of raw footage and will use about 5%

- the rest will still be available for future use
- the script will be developed from interview material

Eileen R - Montana requires tournaments to do pre and post cleaning

- they notify tournaments in the winter ahead of time
- bigger problem with small “ma & pa” fishing tournaments

There was question as to California’s ANS regulations regarding fishing tournaments

- Stephen will follow up with Susan Ellis (CDFG)

7. Washington New ANS Law: Alan Pleus

- effective 22 July 07
- random check stations to stop watercraft and undergo inspection
- can stop vessel leaving or transporting between water bodies
- can quarantine
- if don't comply - criminal penalty
- body of water can be declared "infested" to control boat movement
- thinks the law allows for the removal of contaminated boats from water without owner's permission (need to look at their liability once they touch boat - may be liable for any damage, etc.)

Eric A -

- boat inspections include random check stations
- full implementation by the end of the year
- developing a policy for setting up/requesting check stations
- inspection/decontamination kits at each regional office
- signage requirements mandated in legislation:
 - 1500 signs for ramps/marinas, etc.
 - 31 access routes into Washington to be signed
- certification for state folks (1200 - 1400)
- random check stations - 7 sets of portable signs and traffic cones
 - portable hot water washers on trailers (voluntary pull-ins are not cited)

Sam C - how do folks know about the laws? Alan P - Lacey Act (Federal) and Washington legislation for state, but "a lot will be surprised"

8. Member Updates:

Stephen Phillips

- Pacific Ballast Water Group will meeting on December 4 - 5 in Portland

Alan Pleus

- identifying key truck transportation routes
- how to gather data
- Federal ballast water legislation is out of committee and going to the senate floor (Senator Boxer, CA, plans to oppose)

Jim Gores

- passed around a vial with an Amur goby from the Sandy River
- they found two more last week

Paul Heimowitz

- black carp listed under Lacey Act as injurious species
- Handed out carp watch cards and new "Zap" brochures
- working with USGS to determine how to deal with the gobies, monitoring has been mostly incidental to other activities, working with Tim Counihan to develop more directed sampling next year - with emphasis on detecting breeding adults and migratory forms

Randy Henry

- Oregon lacks government leadership/mandates/legislation
- letter has been sent out to decision makers requesting emergency funding actions in 2008 - \$500,000 for signs/equipment for southern borders (rest stops, weigh stations, etc.); also working on a more definitive funding solution for 2009
- "crisis packet" - on DVD with documents on what others have done (e.g., Utah hiring 42 technicians)
- Governor's staff - more push behind the scenes
- permits for boating or waterway events (include inspections)
- would like information from anyone developing model education language on best ANS practices for boaters

Mark Schneider

- Congressman Earl Blumenauer is fishing for funding needs for the state Water Resources Board
- Sam Chan mentioned that he thinks the window has passed

Eileen Ryce

- all New Zealand mudsnail populations have crashed (they are now at less than 100,000/m²) in the areas where they originally took off quickly thinks was probably a density-dependent response rather than some environmental factor (but there is still a pool of organisms out there)
- Mark Sytsma asked if they found any parasites and Eileen said that they had looked but haven't found anything
- on 19 June 2007 they found Eurasian watermilfoil in the Clark Fork system
- they have been using a boat washer with a recirculating hot water system (cost \$64,000)
 - it is easy to use and maintain
 - on a 20-foot trailer and they need a minimum of 400² ft to set it up
 - great outreach tool
- Eileen is now the WRP Executive Committee Chair and will be representing the WRP at the ANSTF meeting - if anyone has something to bring up, please contact her

- nothing new on the Fort Peck zebra mussel (peanut butter jar) issue

Amy Ferriter

- the state strategic plan for Eurasian watermilfoil out last week - contact her for the web site
- the milfoil council is now the invasive species council
- the Idaho ANS plan is out for approval - meeting in November to finalize it
- Considering developing ANS outreach for truckers at truck stops – maybe ANS placemats in restaurants

Sam Chan

- education for 50 - 60 Oregon state enforcement officers
 - their awareness level was low - 30% had heard of zebra/quagga mussels
 - they are frustrated that they lack enforcement authority

9. Public Comment: There was no additional public comment.

10. Next Meeting:

- The next meeting was set for February 26, 2008 in Portland, Oregon to be held at the Port of Portland (contact: Marla Harrison).
- Meeting topics should include Amur goby update, Asian carp, CRB Rapid Response Plan update.

11. Work Assignments:

1. **All** - we should provide input as a river basin team to the 100th Meridian meeting in November
 - a. give comments to Paul Heimowitz
2. Get update on California fishing tournament rules