

# DRAFT

## MINUTES

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

February 26, 2008  
Port of Portland  
Portland, Oregon

#### 1. Attendees:

Stephen Phillips, Chair, PSMFC  
Kevin Aitkin, USFWS  
Bill Zook, PSMFC  
Jill Hardiman, USGS  
Ron Smith, USFWS  
Don Fell, MHEP, Inc.  
Robyn Draheim, PSU  
Jim Gores, ODFW  
Randy Henry, OMB  
Eric Anderson, WDFW  
Steve Wells, PSU  
Alan Pleus, WDFW  
Jim Irish, BPA

Paul Heimowitz, USFWS  
Glenn Dolphin, OMB  
David Britton, USFWS (phone)  
Pam Meacham, WDFW  
Tim Counihan, USGS  
Rian Hooff, OR DEQ  
Marla Harrison, Port of Portland  
Blaine Parker, CRITFC  
Scott Smith, USGS  
Mark Sytsma, PSU  
Paul Sherwin, Bri Communications (Phone)  
Eileen Ryce, MTFWP  
Tim Darland, USACE

Marla Harrison of the Port of Portland welcomed the group.

Comments and Approval of October 2007 CRB Team Minutes: There were no additional comments on the minutes - they have been posted on the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian web site: <http://www.100thmeridian.org/ColumbiaRT.asp>

Paul Heimowitz gave a briefing on the most recent version of the “Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan: Zebra Mussels and Other Dreissenid Species.” The document is still viewed as a working draft and comments were requested by March 15. Go to <http://www.100thmeridian.org/ColumbiaRT.asp> to see the latest draft. Paul encouraged agencies, especially signatory agencies to the plan, to seek comment from their agency legal staff. Once these comments have been received and incorporated, the draft will be sent out for signature. Among changes incorporated from the October 2007 exercise, Paul noted that the Plan now presents an assumption that mussels have not yet widely spread/reproduced at the time of discovery.

Allen said the plan containment section needs to be highlighted. Allen also said that Washington State needs to develop their own plan and that the CRB Plan should be seen as a model for other states to use as a resource.

There was extended discussion about the signature process – whether governors should sign, use of the Western Governors Association to help obtain signatures, using advocacy groups to encourage agency signatures. Resource user groups also need to be made aware of the Plan.

In addition to the draft response plan, there is a companion document “Strategy to Enhance Columbia River Basin Interagency Response to Zebra Mussels and Other Dreissenid Species.” This document presents a list of actions needed to better prepare for response. Comments are also welcome on this document (to view go to 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian website, see above).

There was discussion on the need for a second rapid response exercise. It was agreed that a second exercise would be beneficial, but no firm date was set. Also, in the near term, most participants felt that getting the Plan signed by agencies in a timely manner was a higher priority than another exercise.

Paul said that the USFWS was reviewing the Plan and after one-two months should be ready to sign.

Eileen said that Montana is currently hesitant about signing the document; some of the ICS language had raised flags in her agency.

There was a discussion on how to handle preliminary reporting of zebra mussel find (**see To Do list at the end of this document**).

There was discussion on whether the Strategic Plan needs to be signed.

Don asked why paint was not included in the containment, control and eradication section (Appendix) of the Plan. Paul answered that paint is a long term mitigative measure, and more appropriately should be mentioned in the strategy (See To Do List)

David Britton discussed SW region zebra/quagga issues. He said that hatcheries in the Lake Mead are still shut down because of the infestation. There are concerns that boats are sneaking out of their slips on Lake Mead without being properly cleaned (See To Do list). A boat was intercepted in Utah that was not properly cleaned.

Ron Smith introduced himself. He is the new ANS coordinator for USFWS Region 8 (Stockton office). He updated the group on San Justo Reservoir, CA. It appears that the zebra mussels are restricted to San Justo, they may have been there for 2 years, and have not spread elsewhere. There are discussions to draw down the reservoir and maybe use a biocide to kill off the zebras.

Paul Heimowitz said that Lake Pueblo (CO), where zebras were recently found was considering a closure and that divers would soon be doing additional surveys.

Allen mentioned the importance of documenting the current invasion histories for reference in future years.

Glen and Randy updated the group on Oregon Marine Board ANS activities. They have been working on a 2009 state legislative package to fund state ANS activities. One issue is the establishment and funding of border watercraft inspection stations. They are very expensive @ > \$1 million a year. OMB has been discussing a fee increase as a mechanism to fund ANS activities. OMB will be doing expanded boater surveys in 2008.

Kevin Aitkin gave a presentation on the recently released Columbia River Basin Asian Carp Risks evaluation (<http://asiancarp.org/risks.asp>).

Tim Counihan is also working on Asian carp -- working on a strategy for what an early detection strategy would look like. They will be taking CRB calcium data this year given questions raised by the Columbia Basin evaluation.

Bill Zook showed the new draft of the video "Don't Move a Mussel." Discussion and comments followed. Bill hopes to wrap the video up for distribution by April.

Steve Wells gave a presentation on PSU monitoring activities and showed a map substrate and larval monitoring in the west.

Pam said that WDFW continues to have their veliger samples processed by a lab in New York.

We need common volumetric protocols in veliger sampling.

It was decided that a list of waterbodies that are not being sampled is needed ....like a top ten list for each state. (See To Do list)

Allen Pleus brought up the recent contaminated California boat interception. The boat was "let go" by state of California inspectors, but they did email CRB resource agencies to alert them that it was in route (eventually the boat was intercepted in Washington and decontaminated). Allen showed slides of the actual decontamination of the boat in Ridgefield (led by Eric Anderson).

Discussion then focused on decontamination protocols, how do we know we are getting 100 % kill? What is the best and most widely decon equipment? Do we need a regional decontamination certificate? What is the process for quarantining boats? Can we get the State of California to hand out fliers reminding boaters that it is illegal to transport dreissenids in other (CRB) states? (See To Do list)

Paul Sherwin (phone) of Bri Communications gave a presentation on an ANS educational opportunity. Paul makes signs for parks and visitor centers and could add an ANS message if funding is found, similar to a program in Puget Sound. He is looking for partners. (See To Do List).

Tim updated the group on the potential sighting of a zebra mussel in Fern Ridge Reservoir – it appears to be negative.

Tim also discussed the Corp's dredges. Operators have been very cooperative in taking steps to reduce the spread of ANS. Tim also said that contaminated dredging equipment was intercepted coming into the region and decontaminated.

Eileen said that the Montana legislature will meet next in 2009 and consider ANS legislation. Also, the Pacific Northwest Fish Health Protection Committee wants to have a joint meeting with the CRB Team.

Bill Zook said he needs articles for the next CRB ANS newsletter.

Rian said the Oregon Ballast Water Task Force will meet April 21.

Scott Smith is working on a volunteer dive monitoring program that will also include federal agency divers.

Marla said the dredge "Oregon" will be in dry dock soon and maybe could be inspected (See To Do list). Marla also said the Port has space for a researcher on their water quality monitoring boat.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 10-11, 2008, location to be determined.

**DRAFT**

**TO DO LIST  
CRB Team  
February 26, 2008**

Develop one page “what does your agency get out of this plan” briefing paper for the “Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan: Zebra Mussels and Other *Dreissenid* Species (*Plan*) (Lead: Paul, Stephen; assistance from Jim Gores, Randy Henry, Eileen Ryce; Allen Pleus? Blaine Parker?)

Comments on the *Plan* and the “Strategy to Enhance Columbia River Basin Interagency Response to Zebra Mussels and Other *Dreissenid* Species” (*Strategy*) are due by March 15.

Comments were specifically requested on the *Plan*'s strategy/suggested template for sharing preliminary (unverified) reports of dreissenids (see page 14).

There was a request to add long term mitigation strategies for infrastructure such as antifouling paint to the Strategy. (*Stephen, Paul*)

David Britton will check with the US Park Service at Lake Mead regarding enforcement activities and protocols for regulations requiring boat cleaning.

So that we can learn lessons for future reference - We need to document the timeline of response activities that ensued following recent infestations (San Justo, Lake Pueblo)

We need to develop a simple list of our monitoring sites (both plankton and substrate) and also where we are not sampling, and prioritize the sampling gaps (*Steve Wells*).

Letter and education materials to boat haulers/brokers/associations explaining zebra threat and best management practices needs to be send out (*Stephen*).

An interpretive sign manufacturer, BRI, is looking for partners for a Lower Columbia River conservation display that will feature ANS info (*Paul*).

Bill Zook needs articles for CRB ANS newsletter that goes to marinas and others

Mark Sytsma will follow up with Marla Harrison to sample the hull of the dredge "Oregon."

The Port of Portland has space available for a sampler on their annual water quality sampling that accompanies dredging activities in the Columbia River.

Bill Zook needs comments on the draft video by March 14.

A potential full day workshop was discussed to be held in conjunction with the 100th Meridian Initiative that would look into dreissenid Inspection, decontamination, quarantine, law enforcement, law etc. (*Stephen, Paul, Allen, Eric*).

Eileen Ryce proposed holding our next meeting in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest Fish Health Protection Committee.

Allen will look into the status of a WDFW non-captive muskellunge broodstock proposal and alert the group if plans are still under consideration.