

**HANFORD REACH NATIONAL MONUMENT  
FEDERAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Meeting Summary: Session # 12  
Wednesday, April 16, 2003  
Columbia Basin College  
CH2MHill Technology Education Center, Rooms 180 B & E  
Pasco, WA**

The Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, April 16, 2003 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Columbia Basin College, CH2MHill Technology Education Center in Pasco, Washington.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

1. Hear a presentation on the content of preliminary alternatives in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (CCP/EIS);
2. Hear an update on the planning process from the Service; and
3. Consider the preliminary management alternatives from Planning Workshop II in breakout group sessions.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Greg Hughes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Designated Federal Official (DFO) and Project Leader, Hanford Reach National Monument, opened the meeting and welcomed Committee members, the public and other attendees. He briefed the Committee on the status of the re-charter process, indicating that the current Committee will continue to meet and operate until new Committee members are appointed. Mr. Hughes turned the meeting over to the Committee Chair, Jim Watts.

Mr. Watts reviewed the public comment process and reminded those making public comment that there was a five-minute time limit. He stated that the public comment period was scheduled for just prior to the close of the meeting. A public comment sheet was available at the sign in table for those interested in giving comment. He also reviewed the Committee's purpose and charter.

Alice Shorett, facilitator, reviewed the day's agenda, noting that the purpose of the day's session was to hear presentations on the context and purpose behind alternatives in CCP/EIS planning and on the draft product of preliminary alternatives from Workshop II, and to take the first steps toward formulating advice on preliminary alternatives in breakout group sessions. She added that between today and the next Committee meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>, a subcommittee would work to reconcile some issues regarding the range of preliminary alternatives and present recommendations for advice at the next meeting.

**Meeting Minutes from Session #11**

Mr. Watts asked the Committee for any changes to the summary as drafted. There were no suggestions. It was moved and seconded to adopt the meeting summary as drafted.

<b>Action:</b> Committee members adopted the meeting summary from Session #11 as is.
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### **Report from Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on White Bluffs Sloughing**

Mr. Watts asked the subcommittee chair, Leo Bowman, to provide the Committee with an update on the activities. Mr. Bowman introduced Vicki King from Triangle Associates, Inc., explaining the context behind her involvement. Triangle Associates was hired to coordinate the assessment of the White Bluffs sloughing with funding through the Federal Partnership Program of the U.S. Institute of Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR).

Ms. King thanked Mr. Bowman and the Committee for the opportunity to present to them her findings in the assessment. She explained the context of the issue that the beginning analysis focused on the research to date on sloughing of White Bluffs. Once all the literature was pulled together, she determined a need for technical workshops that could begin to synthesize where there were data gaps, and where there may be opportunity for action on the issue.

Three technical workshops were held with participation from numerous regional experts on topics such as geology, hydrology, geomorphology, and fisheries habitat. Each of the three workshops focused on a different topic, included various participants and was run by a technical facilitator and Ms. King. The three workshops resulted in a list of nine recommendations that included, for example, doing nothing until the issue is further explored and understood. See Attachment A for the presentation slides.

Mr. Bowman again addressed the Committee. He delivered a subcommittee report for the full Committee consideration (Attachment B).

The Committee discussed the recommendations, recognizing that they would not make a final decision on the subcommittee recommendations until the next meeting. Mr. Bowman acknowledged the subcommittee's intent that the Committee make strong recommendations in an effort to keep the assessment alive and active. The Committee will take action on the subcommittee report at its next meeting.

### **Planning Team Updates on Planning Issues and Preliminary Alternatives in the CCP/EIS**

Mr. Watts asked Mike Marxen from the Service's Regional Planning Office to present to the Committee information regarding the purpose of preliminary alternatives in the plan. Mr. Marxen also updated the Committee on the step to identify and analyze issues that the preliminary alternatives will attempt to address.

Mr. Marxen summarized for the Committee the eight steps in the planning process, indicating where the planning team is on the Hanford CCP/EIS. He also reviewed with the Committee those items that fall within the scope of the plan and those items that do not. He summarized the role of the cooperating agencies and highlighted some other concurrent processes that will ultimately feed into the plan, either through the alternatives, objectives, or in a step-down management plan.

Dan Haas, Lead Planner for the Monument, addressed the Committee on the specifics of the alternatives developed in Planning Workshop II and revised by the Service. He briefly summarized the vision statement and goals, as developed to date. Mr. Haas also presented the issues analysis, again noting that the issues to date are the product of Committee advice, public

scoping, cooperating agency meetings and government-to-government consultations. He outlined the issues that will be analyzed in the scope of the plan, those that will be addressed in step-down management plans and those that will not be considered on their own, as they either fall outside the jurisdiction of the Service or involve several agencies in developing a management plan.

Lloyd Piper, representing DOE, added that as the CCP/EIS is developed, the language must be clear in distinguishing between laws, regulations, policies and guidelines.

### **Breakout Groups Developing Ideas for Advice on Preliminary Alternatives**

The Committee was asked to break into four small groups to hear about and discuss four of the five preliminary alternatives the Service is considering at this point. The fifth alternative (No Action) was not discussed as this would be little deviation from current management activities, and therefore did not necessitate an informative and educational dialogue with the Committee members regarding potential advice on the alternative.

Present in each group was a Service lead person to explain the alternative and answer any questions, and a facilitator to chart the groups, comments. Each group spent 15 minutes in each alternative hearing about the alternative and discussing any possible flags or opportunities associated with that alternative. The Committee members also used the opportunity to ask the Service lead questions on that alternative in an attempt to become more educated about the parameters of that particular alternative. At the end of four groups (one hour), the members stayed in their last group to consider the range of alternatives as a whole that they had just heard. They were asked whether the range was sufficient, if they thought there was anything missing, or if there was an opportunity to consolidate any of the current alternatives. The results of the breakout groups are included as Attachment C.

<p><b>Action:</b> The Committee asked for volunteers for a subcommittee to take the alternatives where the Committee left off today and develop recommendations on advice for the Committee to consider at the May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p>
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### **Report on Refuge Activities**

Greg Hughes gave a brief overview of some recent activities on the Monument. He reminded Committee members that in March, the Service held the Centennial celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System. He also introduced a new member of the Monument team, Ron Crouse, the Interpretation and Education Outreach Coordinator.

Dave Smith and Heidi Newsome of the Monument presented to the Committee information on the ALE Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) project. The Service spent the last several months preparing for and conducting rehabilitation by treating for invasive species, planting native seed grasses, planting sage brush, replacing the old three-string barbed wire fence with new one-string barbed wire, and replacing all the gates along the ALE. They also aerial seeded and backed-filled green strips of native grass along the fence to provide an additional firebreak. To date, the success rate of the sagebrush planting is an impressive 59%, a trend the Service hopes will continue over time.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

### **Summary and Next Steps**

Alice Shorett summarized the meeting, highlighting the report on the White Bluffs, the presentations on preliminary alternatives, and the progress in breakout groups in formulating advice for a subcommittee to further develop and present to the full Committee May 29<sup>th</sup>. She recapped Mr. Hughes earlier comments regarding the Committee re-charter process, indicating that until a new Committee is appointed, this Committee will continue to meet and operate.

With that, she proposed a schedule of meetings for the next few months as follows:

- Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 9AM – 4PM, WSU-CIC (scheduled)
- Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, TBD
- Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 – 4:30PM
- Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 – 4:30PM
- Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 – 4:30PM

Greg Hughes thanked all the invited speakers for their time and thanked the public for coming. He adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Certified by

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Greg Hughes, DFO

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Jim Watts, Chair

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

<b>Committee Seat</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
K-12 Education	Karen Weida	
Cities		<i>vacant</i>
Conservation/Environmental Counties	Rick Leumont Leo Bowman	Mike Lilga Frank Brock
Economic Development	Jim Watts	Harold Heacock
Outdoor Recreation		Mike Wiemers
Public-at-Large		
Scientific/Academic	Michele Gerber David Geist Gene Schreckhise	Eric Gerber Dennis Dauble Ed Rykiel
State	Jeff Tayer	Ron Skinnarland
Native American	Rex Buck	<i>vacant</i>
Utilities/Irrigation		<i>vacant</i>
Designated Federal Official	Greg Hughes	

### **Participants and Invited Speakers**

U.S. Department of Energy	Lloyd Piper
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dave Smith
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Heidi Newsome
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dan Haas
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Mike Marxen
Triangle Associates, Inc.	Vicki King

### **Facilitators**

Triangle Associates, Inc.	Alice Shorett	Derek Van Marter
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### **Meeting Support**

U.S. Department of Energy	Peggy Terlson
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### **Observers**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Don Voros
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Paula Call
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Jenna Gaston
U.S. Department of Energy	Tom Ferns
U.S. Department of Energy	Dana Ward
Yakama Nation	Jay McConnaughey
Benton County	Adam Fyall
Grant County Tourism	Terese Shcrom
Grant County Planning	Hector Torres
SCBID	Bryan Alford
Backcountry Horsemen of WA	Linda Smith
Richland Rod & Gun Club	Eugene Van Liew

*Hanford Reach National Monument  
Federal Planning Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary*

**Final**  
*April 16, 2003*

Tri-City Herald  
Public

John Stang  
Al Wright

## **DISTRIBUTED MATERIALS**

### **Committee's Packet of Materials**

Meeting Agenda (April 16, 2003)  
Draft Meeting Summary: Session #11 (January 7, 2003)  
Hanford Reach National Monument Brochure  
Planning Timeline  
Preliminary Alternatives  
Preliminary Issues Analysis  
Alternative Formulation  
Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Recommendations  
Advisory Committee Assignment for Breakout Groups  
Planning Workshop II Report  
White Bluffs Landslide Assessment Report