

**NorthWestern Energy
Madison Fisheries Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
December 1, 2017**

Location **Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Office**
1400 S 19th Ave
Bozeman, Montana

Time: **9:00-3:00pm**

9:00 Welcome - Brent Mabbott, NorthWestern Energy, facilitated the meeting.

Introductions were made and the following attended this meeting:

Andy Welch	NWE	andy.welch@northwestern.com	565-7549
Jordan Tollefson	NWE	jordan.tollefson@northwestern.com	565-3879
Brent Mabbott	NWE	brent.mabbott@northwestern.com	490-1801
Bruce Roberts	USFS	broberts@fs.fed.us	522-2544 570-1991
Dale Olson	USFS	dolson07@fs.fed.us	682-4253 925-0897
Darin Watschke	USFS	dwatschke@fs.fed.us	682-4253 855-3857
David Moser	MFWP	davemoser@mt.gov	994-6938
Don Skaar	MFWP	dskaar@mt.gov	444-7409
Jake Chaffin	USFS	jakechaffin@fs.fed.us	587-6734
Kristi Webb	NW	kwebb@nw-enviro.com	239-4884
Lauren Wittorp	MRF	lauren@madisonriverfoundation.org	682-3148
Chelsea Pardo	MRF	chelsea@madisonriverfoundation.org	682-3148
Mary Gail Sullivan	NWE	marygail.sullivan@northwestern.com	497-3382
Steve Leathe	NWE	steve.lease@northwestern.com	268-2347
Travis Horton	MFWP	thorton@mt.gov	994-3155
Travis Lohrenz	MFWP	tlohrenz@mt.gov	682-7807
Jim Olsen	MFWP	jimolsen@mt.gov	533-8451
Ethan Kunard	MCD	ethan@madisoncd.org	682-7289
Jason Brey	USFS	jbrey@fs.fed.us	823-6963

A quorum was present with a representative from NorthWestern, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, and one federal agency (U.S. Forest Service).

Agenda revisions There were no revisions made to the agenda.

MADTAC business

- Review NorthWestern Staff Changes
- Review of MADTAC Notebook contents
- MOA Review
- Revision of 5-yr Fisheries PM&E plan and Submittal of Fisheries Completion Report (by EOY 2018).
 In 2018, the TAC will need to review the 5-Year Plan and revise as appropriate for the next 5-year cycle (2019-2023). The revised 5-year Plan will go through TAC review and approval prior to being submitted to FERC. The deadline for the submittal to FERC is by EOY 2018. Brent hopes to finish up and submit to FERC by June/July 2018
- **Pollution Insurance Requirement for Contractors** (Construction Work Only, at this time). In past there was no requirement for contractors working in stream channel to have pollution insurance. General liability does

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not cover any in-channel “spill”. Risk management team within NorthWestern reviewed and requires this insurance coverage.

- Spring/Summer Public Meetings, Ennis and West Yellowstone - well attended (45 people) in 2017
 - Brent recommended NorthWestern continue having a spring meeting to provide update on snowpack and status of spring flow release for the year. Andy agreed that the spring meeting is a good opportunity to keep the public updated and engaged.
- Discussion on Plant Trips at Madison Dam and minimum flow excursion
 - FWP receives instant feedback from the public when any fish mortality is observed in the Madison River. Currently, FWP has not been in the field to collect any data during a minimum flow excursion in the Madison River.
 - The group discussed options of simulating a minimum flow excursion so FWP can collect data and evaluate potential impacts to fisheries. MG – NorthWestern will need to get FERC approval to operate and simulate flow below the minimum requirements. FWP may also look at doing a HECRAS to simulate off-channel impacts.
 - BLM will also need to be consulted prior to any simulation.
 - Pulse flows at Madison always done manually by operators. NorthWestern is currently working on automating the measure. Hoping to have installed for next pulse flow season. Will require public notice.
- Hebgen Dam rehabilitation work is complete. \$36 million dollars to fix (2008-2017) intake, spillway, seismic upgrades.

- **2017 Budget**

Budget – Year 2017	Balance
US Bank Balance 12/31/2016	\$172,141
2017 MADTAC Budget	\$395,981
2017 MAD TAC Payments (11-20-2017)	\$420,638
Us Bank Reserve funds Used in 2017	\$24,657
Payments yet to be made for 2017 projects	
016-17 Spanish Fk Barrier (Approved Nov 2017)	\$30,000

- **Review of 2017 Projects**

ID	Project Title	Agency/Contact	Comments
001-17	2188 Operations and Personnel	MFWP	
002-17	Ennis Office Rent	MFWP	
003-17	Westslope Cutthroat Trout Genetics	MFWP	Backlog of samples
004-17	Sun Ranch WCT Broodstock Program	Drake & Associates	Anaconda facility scheduled to open 2018
005-17	FH 950 Portable Velocity Meter	USFS	Purchased
006-17	2017 Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF Seasonal Tech	USFS	60 days (2 techs)
007-17	2017 WF Madison River Stream Restoration Project	USFS, MFWP	Not implemented in 2017

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ID	Project Title	Agency/Contact	Comments
008-17	2017 Custer Gallatin NF Seasonal Tech	USFS	48 (8-hr) days
009-17	Equipment Purchase (Cobra Combi Breaker/Drill)	USFS	Log set up to track project use
010-17	Wall Creek Barrier Survey and Design	USFS, MFWP	
011-17	English George Barrier	MFWP	Under budget
012-17	Upper Madison River Creel Survey (Hebgen Dam to Ennis Reservoir)	MFWP	Mar 13-Nov 22 1253 interviews Data being analyzed
013-17	Lower Jack Creek Streambank Restoration Project	MFWP, MCD	Construction in March 2018 for phase 1
014-17	Moore's Creek Lyons: Stream Restoration Project	MFWP, MCD	
015-17	Narrows Pond Dam Design	USFS	30% design review in Dec 2017, final design summer 2018

Additional Topics

Bruce Roberts– a couple of years (2015) ago the Mad TAC identified a list of topics/projects (Tab 4 in notebook). Brent Mabbott suggests the group revisit this spring/summer (2018) and make sure to list Madison Conservation District projects as well as revisit projects and priorities.

• **2018 Budget**

US Bank account est. 1/1/2018	\$147,484
2018 MAD TAC Budget	\$403,901
2018 MAD TAC Proposal Budget submitted	\$377,982
2018 MAD TAC Proposals Approved	\$317,583
016-17 Spanish Fk Barrier (Approved Nov 2017)	\$30,000
2018 Total	\$347,583

• **Review and discuss 2018 Proposals**

Voting members include one representative from NorthWestern, one representative from MFWP, and one representative from a Federal agency (USFS). Agency decides on voting member. TAC will review all proposed projects and then vote at the end.

2018 Proposals (all proposals present low risk)

ID	Project Title	Agency/Contact	Priority	TAC Funding Request	Approved Cost
001-18	FWP-Personnel and Operations	FWP	1	\$161,899	\$161,899
002-18	FWP Office Space	FWP	1	\$6000	\$6000
003-18	WCT Genetics	FWP	2	\$10,000	Removed

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ID	Project Title	Agency/Contact	Priority	TAC Funding Request	Approved Cost
004-18	Sun Ranch Hatchery	Drake	2	\$10,000	\$10,000
005-18	Emergency/Contingency Fund	NWE	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
006-18	Habitat Project Consultant Assistance	FWP	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
007-18	BH/DL FS Seasonals	FS	1	\$9,000	\$9,000
008-18	Custer/Gall NF Seasonals	FS	1	\$5,919	Increased to \$6,000
009-18	Rating curve	FWP	1	\$2184	\$2184
010-18	French Creek Barrier	FWP	3	\$30,000	\$30,000
011-18	Applied Fluvial Geomorphology Training	FWP	3	\$1600	Removed
012-18	Elk River Barrier design	FS	1	\$7500	\$7500
013-18	MOA with FWP	FWP/NWE	1	\$ -	\$ -
014-18	Purchase of Rotenone and Potassium Permit	FWP/FS/Turner	3	\$8880	Removed
015-18	Spanish Fork Barrier	FWP/FS/Turner	3	\$45,000	\$45,000
016-18	MOA with FS	FS/NWE	1	-	-
017-18	Study of Temperature Requirement MWF	MSU/FWP	1	\$60,000	Reduced \$20,000
	Total			\$377,982	\$317,583

USFS and FWP MOA Comments to Brent by December 15, 2017

2018 Proposals

001-18 FWP – Personnel and Operations

002-18 FWP Office Space – increased to address change in lease fees

003-18 WCT Genetics - Removed from Proposal List. Amend not spent 2017 funding to include 2018

004-18 Sun Ranch Hatchery - FWP contacted Buddy Drake via phone and Buddy indicated that if he doesn't get this money, he cannot operate. It will be used for moving WCT into Grayling Creek. Dave – it's connected to Madison and valued Project. With the Anaconda facility anticipated to be operational in 2018, this funding for Sun Ranch will likely not be available in 2019. The TAC also indicated that if Yellowstone proposes money in future, they need to be present at the meeting.

005-18 Contingency Fund – NorthWestern

Funding is pre-approved by TAC today so funding is available to address immediate issues and funding allocated will be accounted for at the end of the year. Missouri Fisheries TAC has contingency fund and it is not used annually... can't remember the last use. NorthWestern evaluate connection to FERC articles and provide notice to group of allocation of funds. None specific to an individual.

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006-18 Habitat Project Consultant Assistant – Proposal provided by FWP for use by any project/entity for use of consultant. Specific to consultant, Alan McNeal and access to having someone assist with moving projects forward.

007-18 Seasonal temps. GS 4 and GS 6 – asking for about 60 days.

008-18 Seasonal temps - asked less than BH/DL and providing fewer days per year consistently.. about 40 days of work

009-18 Rating Curve – To be used for rating Madison River flows at the bridge east of Ennis.

010-18 French Creek Barrier – Jim Olsen – restore native fish to watershed (40 miles of habitat), high quality habitat that is improving. Propose barrier. Native cutthroat populations, native pearlshell mussels. Neighboring Deep Creek has a thriving mussel population. Second largest native fish population in the upper Missouri River Basin. Fish barrier design provided by Pioneer Technical. Area would be used to stock arctic grayling. Arctic grayling are present in neighboring creek (Deep Creek) and seasonal use is known to occur in French Creek. Went out to bid, all bids higher than engineering cost. Lowest bid around \$500,000. Considerable cost due to need to build an access road. Recently identified additional access options that may reduce overall costs and some in-kind material onsite to reduce costs for riprap and fill.

011-18 Applied Fluvial Geomorphology Training – remove from proposal list

012-18 Elk River WCT Restoration – Identified site for building a potential barrier. Dale White, engineer with USFS reviewed site with Darin W. and thought from an engineering perspective, the site proposed was a good location. No Geotech analysis has been recommended to date. FS can design structure on forest service land for federal projects and provide cost-savings.

Approximately 71 miles of stream upstream of proposed barrier site. 2017 FS completed survey of site. FS estimates in-house engineering design to be about \$14,150 and asking \$7,500 for TAC funding. Construction is likely 4 to 5 years out. No cultural, no scoping, no NEPA has been completed to date. Fish barriers do not require a EA and this would likely be considered a small project and be completed under a categorical exclusion and specialist reports.

013-18 MOA with FWP

Review by December 15th and provide feedback to Brent. Then Brent will send out to TAC to vote/approve. Brent has emailed, included with proposals. Brent will resend as needed.

014-18 Purchase of Rotenone/Potassium Permanganate - FWP withdrew proposal. May find another funding source for chemical.

015-18 Spanish Fork Barrier

TAC already approved \$30,000 in 2017 (016-17) – Requesting for additional \$45,000

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Carter has contractor and just need funds to construct. Recommend funding going directly to Turner Enterprise Inc. Instead of FWP. FWP now requires OH for all contracts. Dave Moser – project focuses on protecting arctic grayling in an attempt to prevent listing of species in future, which would results in much higher economic costs.

016-18 MOA with FS

Review by December 15th and provide feedback to Brent. Then Brent will send out to TAC to vote/approve. Brent has emailed, included with proposals. Brent will resend as needed.

017-18 Study of Temperature Requirement MWF

Proposal requested \$60,000 from Mad TAC. NorthWestern was not in support of proposal. NorthWestern operations and pulse flows are based on lethal thermal limit. FWP supports project. USFS agreed that they could see the results of this study benefiting fisheries management and temperature will only continue to be a topic. FWP proposed MAD TAC fund \$20,000. NorthWestern, FWP, USFS voted yes to funding \$20,000 for this study.

Reduced funding to \$20,000 (Vote Yes by FWP, USFS and NorthWestern)

Final Vote for total as adjusted. \$317,583

MOAs have no costs. Approved by all voting members (USFS, FWP, NorthWestern).

Additional Comments:

Bruce recommend having Bairco come look at French Creek or Elk River diversions (Darin W. and Jim Olsen will work with Bruce to get Bairco out). Bruce found it was beneficial to have Bairco look at these challenging projects and provide some input. was \$750 investment for site visit. Brent – could use contingency fund for this. Group agreed. FWP might be able to pay for French Creek. Would be a benefit for Wall Creek Project. Can he look at French Creek in winter? Time is critical for submittal of BID.

FWP stopped Hebgen stocking ended in 2016. Creel Survey in 2019 (maybe). Winter creel didn't have much effectiveness, so FWP may not implement winter survey which would help reduce costs.

3:00 PM Meeting Adjourned

Action Items:

- **Brent will set up meeting for end of February 2018 for the group to review the list of projects, review and verify the FERC articles are being addressed and that the Madison Conservation District project are included, as appropriate.**
 - **Darin – recommend the group include Elk River WCT Restoration project in the February 2018 meeting. The group should look at the schedule and timing of implementation of several large projects.**
 - **In February 2018 meeting, group will review Madison River drainage projects. Andy – would like to keep projects funded (outside Madison drainage) to under 25 percent.**
- **USFS and FWP submit feedback to Brent by December 15, 2017 regarding MOAs.**