
**Summary of Meeting
Central Valley Fish Facilities Coordination
Agency Coordinators Meeting**

**March 12, 1998
1:00 – 4:00 PM
DWR Environmental Services Office**

The first meeting of the Central Valley Fish Facility Coordination Team was held on Thursday, March 13, 1998 at the Environmental Services Office from 1:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Attendance List:

Randy Brown - DWR
Ron Ott - CALFED
Serge Birk – CVPWUA
Alan Baracco – DFG
Charlie Liston – USBR
Ron Brockman – USBR
Jim McKevitt – USFWS
Jim Buell – Metropolitan Water District
Marianne Hallet – NRCS
Marcin Whitman – NMFS
Kevan Urquhart – DFG
Bob Fujimura – DFG
Darryl Hayes – DWR
Dan Odenweller – DFG

Randy Brown convened the first meeting of the "coordinators" of the coordination team. The structure of the meeting was to focus not on the need for the effort, but how to make it a successful effort.

Darryl Hayes was tasked with taking notes of the meeting, which would be sent out by the Chair of the group. Dan Odenweller also took notes that have been integrated into these.

An agenda and a copy of the mission statement were handed out for "focus". Background material was seen by most, however all had not seen the material. Ron Ott, Jim Buell, Serge Birk and Jim McKeivitt (Elise Holland – Bay Inst. was suggested to receive material also) requested this information.

Action Item: Kevan Urquhart will mail out the background material to those who requested.

Action Item: The group would review the mission statement and objectives and comment by the next meeting.

There was agreement on the value and need for the coordination effort and most felt it was long overdue. "Prioritization" and even more importantly "implementation" and "evaluation" issues need to be addressed in the group. The CVFFT is intended to be a coordination and communication mechanism for fish screen and passage facilities by those with a "global" view. The Team should pull together programs for the benefit of all. The "Coordinator Group" should be composed of those with oversight over fish facility projects with some technical expertise preferable.

Project Work Teams would be set up if they do not already exist and tied to this structure.

It was agreed that although planning for CALFED screens and larger programs need significant coordination, this team would focus on all programs and projects in the Central Valley including even small screening efforts. Participation by many programs or projects, however, would be voluntary.

McKeivitt pointed out that CALFED has a need for several groups such as this for the Ecosystem coordination efforts and this team could fulfill a part of that need.

If the group can work together, the agency directors and stakeholder groups may hear better descriptions of the issues, etc. through one "voice".

Alan Baracco was nominated Chair of the "coordinator group" and unanimously approved.

Action Item: Alan Baracco will serve in this capacity for at least the first year. Responsibilities of the chair will be defined better as the group mission and effort is clarified. For now the Chair will organize future meetings and forward notes to the group. It was decided that notes of this and all future meetings would be recorded and distributed by the Chair. Note taking responsibilities would be rotated.

Action Item: Alan Baracco is to prepare a letter announcing the CVFFT, and providing notice of the members. This should include the mission statement, goals and objectives, and the earlier backup material. Finalized material would be handed out later after first incorporating all comments.

The role of the stakeholders was stated to be integral to the group's efforts. A parallel to the Central Valley Salmon Team function was made to this group. There was agreement that except under some instances, "voting" on issues or funding would be minimal or avoided due to this group's advisory function. Should "voting" be necessary, however, the meeting would be split and stakeholders would be asked to leave the meeting or to refrain from those decisions as appropriate. The CVST has avoided voting issues to date. Issues should be on the table for all to see including those paying the bills. It was thought that a few stakeholders (say four, two water user groups and two environmental representatives) could serve in this function at the "coordinator group" level. No significant discussion on stakeholder involvement at the "Management Team" level.

Action Item: Several stakeholders would be polled and asked to determine the level of involvement they wish to devote to the "coordinator" group. Jim McKeit was asked to poll several environmental interest groups on this and Randy and Ron would poll water interest groups. Interest would be reported by the next meeting.

There was a discussion concerning conflict of interest issues and how they would be resolved should they arise. FACA issues were discussed but not thought to apply here since the group would not be a decision making body.

Action Item: Dan Odenweller would distribute a letter regarding contracting conflicts of interest to the group, dated July 9, 1997 from the Department of Justice to CALFED.

The relationship between this body and the existing AFSP Steering Committee was discussed. There was general agreement that this body might replace or envelope the existing AFSP Steering Committee. AFSP issues may, however,

involve agency only issues so this would need resolve.

Action Item: No agreement on this yet, but since the group makeup was similar to the AFSP Steering Committee, this item would be taken up at the next AFSP Committee meeting.

Several examples of projects needing immediate attention, coordination, cooperation and oversight were brought to this group's attention. Discussions focused on the CALFED fish facility planning effort and the existing Delta fish facilities programs (Tracy and Skinner). Discussion on the items GCID evaluation efforts and the UC Davis Fish Treadmill investigations were not discussed due to time constraints. It was agreed that discussions on these and other similar efforts should first be discussed at the Management Team level when convened.

Ron Brockman described the plans for their activities at Tracy. USBR wanted to set up an official interagency team to carry this forward instead of the ongoing ad hoc effort. Everyone agreed. Randy Brown wanted some agreement on how this program fits into the "big picture". Brockman pointed out that the USBR has had funding levels cut and it would be great to get broader support to go to bat for the proposed research efforts at Tracy with implications to CALFED program facilities.

Charlie Liston then handed out a memorandum dated March 9, 1998 on "Research ideas/Questions that could be addressed under the TFFIP, ...Development Facilities". This paper describes how the ongoing program addresses existing fish salvage problems and how the facility could be utilized to address "bigger picture" fish facility questions in both the Delta and the Central Valley. Charlie mentioned that several other documents were available upon request. He said that this is the time to develop the future options and needed this group's support. Plans for a large research/test facility are planned for the year 2000 at a cost of \$8-10 million.

Randy said the money was less of an issue than making sure the right thing is done and CALFED would probably invest if packaged correctly. Some discussion on renaming the TEFF to something more generic to CALFED and the Delta.

Dan Odenweller and others expressed concern over the portions of the plan that involved studies in Denver, especially those involving fisheries investigations. Out of State travel arrangements would have to be resolved due to existing travel constraints. The USBR indicated that physical modeling studies and debris work was appropriate to do there given their expertise and facilities. Interagency project participation in Denver however would need resolve.

Action Item: Randy Brown asked that a small team prepare a workplan for the

IEP Delta Fish Facilities program, beginning 7/1/98 or funding could be cut from the DFG Bay-Delta staff. Randy suggested Darryl Hayes, Kevan Urquhart, Dan Odenweller and a USBR representative work together on this.

Action Item: A follow-up meeting of the Management or Technical Team (Team structured below this one) would be arranged to review the overall program write-up, make some process recommendations, and recommend a process on how to deal with the Delta Fish Facilities workplan, and the Tracy workplan. Darryl Hayes would arrange this meeting. Coordinator representatives would be asked to designate a representative for this meeting. Meeting should be set in mid-April.

Marianne Hallet expressed concern with the group going into too many details on the Tracy and other projects until the group mission and objectives were agreed to better. A process should be developed by the "Management Group" to better address these issues there and decide which issues should be carried into the "Coordinator Group". Because most agreed, the remaining agenda items and discussion on GCID evaluation and the UC Davis Treadmill Investigations coordination would be deferred.

Ron Ott emphasized that CALFED is in need of coordinated work and discussion on the diversions being considered in the three alternatives in the DEIR. They will need input from a group, such as this one, in developing their preferred alternative and where and when they should be focusing their attention and research efforts.

Next meeting to be 4/27/98 from 1-4 at DWR-CD.