

Operating Procedures AHG (OPAHG) Conference Call
September 27, 2012 (2:00 – 3:43p, MDT)

TWG Chair: Shane Capron, Western Area Power Administration

OPAHG Participants

Cliff Barrett, UAMPS
Marianne Crawford
Vineetha Kartha, State of Arizona
Jason Thiriot, State of Nevada

CRAHG Participants

Kerry Christensen, Hualapai Tribe
Helen Fairley, GCMRC
Mike Yeatts, Hopi Tribe

Not attending: Kevin Dahl, Craig Ellsworth, Chris Harris, Jan Balsom, Charley Bullets, Kurt Dongoske, Chris Hughes, Loretta Jackson-Kelly, Lisa Meyer

Discussion Items:

1. **Section 1:** Meetings, Kurt suggested that “Meetings of the TWG are not to be viewed by Federal agencies as meeting their government-to-government consultation requirement with participating Tribal entities. More about Tribal consultation and its articulation with the Tribal Consultation Plan to be inserted here.”

Participants felt this language could be included in the “Forward” section of the OP. However, since it’s really not an operating procedure, it’s best suited for inclusion in the Tribal Consultation Plan.

2. **Sections 3 and 4 (Vice Chairs):** Should there be two vice-chairs, as proposed? Should the TWG elected VC become the Chair? Should the Chairperson term be one or two years?

Lots of discussion with concern for having two vice-chairs, one from Reclamation and one from the stakeholder group as a possible “chair in training” to assume TWG chair for following fiscal year. Also, suggestion for a “secretary” to help TWG Chair. DOI doesn’t want to give up the Reclamation vice-chair role. Even though Shane will be stepping down as chair after the October meeting, he would very much like to assist the new chair in learning duties. Shane announced that Mary Orton will no longer be facilitating TWG meetings, so it would be very important to have someone else assist in the chairing effort. As for having the term changed to two years, it was decided to keep at one year. The person could always be elected for a second term.

3. **Section 5: Facilitation Section.** Shane said it’s been incredibly helpful to have someone to work with on preparing and conducting meetings, and he has learned a lot from Mary Orton over the past 1.5 years. He announced that Mary Orton will no longer be providing facilitation services to the TWG, but it’s possible that a facilitator could assist from time to time with difficult meeting discussions (budget, for example) depending on availability of funds. Since Reclamation may have to pay for a TWG chair the money used previously to fund facilitation will not be available although there could be some carryover remaining from Mary’s contract. Shane said Mary offered suggestions an earlier draft of the OP and told people they could refer to those if they wanted to, however, he was told by Glen that it would be a conflict of interest to have Mary be involved in any future drafts of the OP.

Action Item: Marianne will craft some language for identifying times when a facilitator could be used and provide to Shane.

4. Section 11/12: Decision-making. If we're going to consider consensus, how about we consider removing voting?

Although Mike suggested voting could be done away with since it's really the AMWG who votes to send recommendations to the Secretary of Interior, if DOI isn't voting, it may not have the same pressure on AMWG and TWG may fully engage in the discussion on the technical issues. Cliff suggested waiting until the AMWG completes the Tribal Consultation Plan and determine the need for voting in the TWG. Kerry said that a benefit of having a vote is that it ends the discussion. Kerry said #11 should be changed because it's not focused on cultural values. It was suggested that instead of using "cultural" values it be changed to "conflicts of cultural values." Helen suggested just using the word "values" in section 11. Shane said he talked with Kurt about this section and there are a lot of cultural values, but often people confuse with tribal values. Shane said he would like to eliminate this section but incorporate philosophical view of values in the Foreward.

Action Item: Shane will remove this section from the OP but incorporate suggestions in the Foreward.

What are we missing from CRAHG recommendations?

Next Steps: Shane will revise the OP according to suggestions made on today's call. Those will be sent to the TWG prior to the TWG meeting. If time allows, a conference call or webex will be scheduled so the OPAHG is prepared for discussion during the OPAHG mini-workshop at the TWG Meeting during the morning of Oct. 25.

Action Item: Helen will work with other GCMRC staff on reviewing Section 8 and provide comments to Shane as soon as possible.

Call ended: 3:43 PM (MDT)