

E-10 – Weiss Bypass Work Group Conference Call Summary: May 20, 2004

Revision 05-28-04

Work Group Member Attendees

Jim Crew	APC	Stan Cook	ADCNR	Jeff Powell	USFWS
Dan Catchings	ADCNR	Andy Sheppard	APC	Ashley McVicar	APC
Kelly Schaeffer	KA	Henry Mealing	KA		

Other Attendees

April Hall	ARA	David Brock	APC	Steve Kartalia	FERC
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Action Items

- APC to provide cost information for the revised flow proposal
Jim Crew, Andy Sheppard, Ashley McVicar June 04, 2004
- Schedule and coordinate Weiss bypass fish sampling
Steve Krotzer & Henry Mealing June 04, 2004
- Send out “fact sheet” information on changes to Weiss Lake level fluctuation to the WBWG.
Jim Crew June 08, 2004
- Work Group members to provide feedback on the revised “Starting Flow” proposal
Work Group Members June 10, 2004
- Work Group to review latest revisions to the AMP and give feedback to Jim Crew
Work Group Members June 18, 2004
- Technical Team members to provide Restoration Goals to Henry Mealing
Technical Team Members June 25, 2004

Meeting Notes

These notes summarize the major items discussed during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

On 5-12-04, Jim Crew distributed a revised Weiss Bypass “Starting Flow” proposal for the Weiss Bypass Working Group to review. The goal of the group conference call was to discuss the flow proposal and answer any questions that the group might have. Henry reminded the group that we want to resolve a “starting flow” to include in the Adaptive Management Plan.

Highlights of the proposal:

- Monthly flow percentages ranging from 4% to 10% with a yearly average of 6%
- Readjusting the spillway release every 3 to 4 days – would give higher variability in flows and more closely mimic a “natural system”.
- Continue to pass flood spill releases into the bypass as part of flood control – would also mimic flood events experienced in a “natural system”.

The group had questions regarding the selection of percentages between months. Henry explained that this exercise was based on data from the HEC-RAS model, best professional opinion, and generation cost data. The group had discussions regarding the value (generation and environmental) of water between high and low water years and also between months within the year. In general, water is more valuable during low water periods when it is needed for both generation and environmental uses. In medium water years, it is easier to balance use needs. In high water years, competition between needs reduces even more and water value drops somewhat.

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The group asked if APC could share some of the cost data for lost generation associated with the spillway release. Jim agreed to work with Andy and Ashley to develop a memo showing the cost information for the proposed spillway release “starting flow”. Jim cautioned the group not to get fixated on the cost figure, as there were many variables that affect this cost and it is very difficult to predict the actual cost. A range of costs is likely to be presented and Jim wanted the group to focus on the environmental benefit of this starting flow, recognizing of course that there would be a loss in generation cost from releasing this water at the spillway.

Group members will review the cost information and the “starting flow” proposal and give APC their comments or suggestions for minor adjustments. The group noted that we are getting very close to an agreed starting flow to include in the AMP.

Baseline Data Collection

Members of the group met on May 3, 2004 to collect bug and fish data in the Weiss Bypass near Terrapin Creek. Jeff Powell gave a short overview of some of the activities during that collection. Additional fish and bug sampling will be coordinated and scheduled for June 2004.

Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) Comments

On April 30, 2004, Jim sent the latest revision of the AMP to the group for review. Group members should get their comments to Jim as soon as possible. Henry asked that Technical Team members give him additional feedback on restoration plans/goals for specific species in the Weiss Bypass.

Weiss Lake Level Fluctuations

APC has developed a proposal for modifying lake level fluctuations on Weiss and Logan Martin lakes. APC is currently developing a “fact sheet” that describes the modifications and will forward that to the WBWG when it is completed.

Conclusions

The next conference call of the Weiss Bypass Working Group is scheduled for June 10, 2004. APC will send meeting materials including an agenda and work products as well as meeting logistics to members in advance of the next meeting.

Working Group documents and materials are posted on the internet at www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro.