

**E-10 – Weiss Bypass Work Group
Meeting Summary: April 15, 2004**

Revision 4-20-04

APC Headquarters, Birmingham, AL – Room 4F

Work Group Members

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

Other Attendees

Steve Krotzer	APC	Jim Lochamy	APC	April Hall	ARA
David Brock	APC	Shad Ellis	WLIA	Jason Redmond	APC
John Grogan	APC	Jason Moak	KA		

Action Items

- Finalize March 18, 2004 meeting notes and post to website
Jason Moak April 29, 2004
- Distribute meeting notes for April 15, 2004 meeting to Work Group
Jim Crew April 29, 2004
- Contact Pat O’Neil (GSA) about electrofishing duration (i.e., pedal time)
Jim Lochamy April 29, 2004
- Make requested revisions to the AMP and distribute to Work Group
Jim Crew and Henry Mealing April 29, 2004
- Coordinate May 1&2, 2004 Weiss bypass fish sampling
Jim Lochamy April 29, 2004
- Check on the availability of hoop nets for the May 2004 Weiss bypass fish sampling
Stan Cook, Jeff Powell, Jim Lochamy April 21, 2004
- Send out APC flow proposal presentation to Group members – via CD
Bill Sim April 29, 2004
- Prepare and send out revised flow proposal to Group members
Jim Crew and Henry Mealing May 7, 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.

Henry Mealing reviewed the agenda for the meeting and asked for comments on the draft meeting notes from the March 18, 2004 conference call. The group had general discussions but no suggested changes. Since there were no changes, the meeting notes will be posted on the website as final.

E-10 – Weiss Bypass Work Group Meeting Summary: April 15, 2004

Revision 4-20-04

Baseline Data Collection

Henry reviewed the results of spring-spawning fish sampling performed on March 10, 2004 and distributed a table depicting sampling results. Malcolm Pierson identified some errors on the table and agreed to correct them and redistribute the results to the group.

The group discussed collecting the fish and macroinvertebrate community sample on May 1&2, 2004. It was agreed that the fish community will be sampled using boat and backpack electrofishing. Members noted that the duration of electrofishing time should be clarified between “sampling time” and “pedal time”. There is also the question of how long to sample (40 to 90 minutes) to ensure that a representative sample is obtained. Jim Lochamy agreed to follow up with Pat O’Neil at GSA regarding this.

At the request of ADCNR, one or more hoop nets will also be deployed at a couple of sampling sites to determine if this gear type will be useful for collecting catfish in the bypass. Stan Cook and Jeff Powell will check on the availability of “agency” hoop nets for the effort. Stan also noted the availability of standard techniques for sampling with hoop nets in rivers. Henry noted that sets should be overnight and nets should be baited (ivory soap, soybean meal, or dog food).

The group also discussed where and how macroinvertebrates should be sampled. The group agreed that macroinvertebrates should be sampled under low (50 cfs) flow conditions within the existing wetted perimeter of the bypass. Fish sampling will occur under low (50 cfs) flow conditions for backpack electrofishing and under 200-cfs flow for boat electrofishing.

Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) Comments

The group discussed the revisions/additions to the AMP. Generally, the group found the revisions acceptable. However, several changes to the AMP were suggested for Section 3.0, and for Appendix A (Team Goals and Objectives). Also, the group agreed to modify Section 5.0 of the Water Quality Team Goals and Objectives (Appendix A) to state that water quality data not the HEC-RAS model will be used to determine water quality changes associated with the backflow. Several members requested a more detailed timeline/implementation schedule with clearly marked decision points. Henry agreed to begin developing a better timeline. Previous “approved” revisions were accepted to the document and new revisions to the AMP were marked as “tracked changes” in the document, which is attached to these meeting notes.

Jim Crew noted that APC received official comments on the AMP via letter from Alabama Rivers Alliance (ARA). Jim noted that APC will prepare an official response to ARA’s comments and requests and will copy the Work Group members.

Start Flows

Bill Sim gave a presentation on APC’s proposed methodology for a set of start flows for the bypass. Bill noted that the objective of passing flows into the bypass is to provide hydrologic conditions downstream of Weiss Spillway that will support and enhance a “riverine” fishery and mussel community. Bill hypothesized that, since mussels are most numerous downstream of Terrapin Creek under current conditions, releases into Weiss Bypass should seek to approach those conditions. Bill reviewed the fish habitat preference data and explained how it was used to determine a range of flows that produce water depths and velocities that meet those preferences. These proposed flows varied monthly and ranged from 3 to 8% (annual average of 4.2%) of the median monthly flow at Mayo’s Bar. Bill noted that these potential spillway releases would generally increase water velocities and depths at all transects in the bypass.

Several members expressed discomfort in using Terrapin Creek as a benchmark since it represents “creek” hydrology not “river” hydrology. Based on this, several members believe that APC’s current proposal is inadequate. However, members are willing to work together to determine if the proposal can be tweaked to provide higher spillway releases during times of the year when water is more plentiful and less “costly.” Henry Mealing agreed to work with APC to draft a revised flow proposal for the group to review at the next meeting.

**E-10 – Weiss Bypass Work Group
Meeting Summary: April 15, 2004**

Revision 4-20-04

Bill Sim agreed to send a CD copy of presentation to Group members by mail.

Conclusions

The next meeting of the Weiss Bypass Working Group is scheduled for May 13, 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.