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HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

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April 9, 1997

Department of Ecology, 1315 W 4th Street, Kennewick, Washington

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HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL  
Final Record of Discussion  
April 9, 1997

Department of Ecology, 1315 W 4th Street, Kennewick, Washington

Approve Agenda - Additions: List of Accomplishments; CRCIA Discussion. Cancel Friday.

Action Items Update - Updates were made. Action Items closed: 031397-04, 031397-07, 031397-09, 021397-05, 021397-09, 021397-10. The support letter for Charlie Brandt was signed by several Trustee organizations, and it was agreed to limit support to one signature per organization.

Project & DQO Schedules -

- ▶ Question asked: Why was the ERDF Groundwater DQO canceled? Darci Teel received this reply: *According to the DQO folks all the involved project managers decided that it was not necessary. Enough information was or had been pulled together previously. It looks like it was a mutual agreement by all parties, regulators included.*
- ▶ **Action Item:** *Darci Teel to add the official public review times on the project documents schedule.*
- ▶ Question asked: Why couldn't the Trustees have a copy of the CRCIA document. Darci obtained this response: *According to our contact person it will be finalized this week and can be mailed to anyone who wants it. The copies floating around now are a "preview-draft-almost-final for CRCIA and others review."*

Approve Draft Minutes - Susan Hughs moved and Geoff Tallent seconded the motion to approve the minutes. There was one abstention. It was agreed to loosely approve the minutes.

1100 Area PAS - Jamie Zeisloft provided the update on the 1100 Area PAS. The interagency agreement (IAG) was revised based on USFWS comments. He hopes to have it signed this week. USFWS first site visit is scheduled for May 6. Each Trustee will receive three copies of the drafts for comment; the comment period was extended to one month. Each organization would provide one set of comments to USFWS, making a total of eight sets of comments. If there is time, the comments would be consolidated. If Trustee comments need to be reconciled, USFWS would flag those. USFWS will be attending the June meeting. All work will be done in-house.

PAS Resolution 97-01 - The 1100 Area PAS Working Group agreed that Resolution 97-01 would not need revision for the changes made to the IAG. This resolution was finalized on 02/12/97 and has 3 signatures. Kay Kimmel is collecting signatures.

BRMaP and BRMiS - Jay McConnaughey asked if anyone has reviewed these documents. Jamie noted that these are working drafts, and comments will be accepted. Asked about the revegetation manual, Darci explained that the manual was developed to assist in costing out projects.

By-Laws Update - CTUIR and DOI signatures are outstanding. Jamie Zeisloft noted that Preston Sleeper's office may no longer be involved in NRDA activities and, until that is resolved, Preston cannot sign the by-laws. John Carleton asked that Preston be notified he is holding up the process, and that he could even notify the Council that no Trustee representative will be appointed at this time. **Action Item:** *Jamie Zeisloft agreed to talk to Jake Jakobosky concerning the by-laws, and ask him to get temporary designation as the Trustee representative so that the Council is complete.*

NRTC Logo/Letterhead - Three options developed by Bechtel's graphics department were reviewed. Several changes were requested: no trees; use crested wave of Rattlesnake Mountain with a view of the river; some do, some don't like the resources listed although it could be used on a homepage; list member organizations; use sagebrush not seedling, looked too much like corn.

**Action Item:** *Jamie Zeisloft agreed to send the MOA and By-Laws to NOAA and NMFS.*

100 Area PAS and 100-HR-3 Injury Determination - Jamie Zeisloft noted USFWS believe there are two ways to do a PAS: by ecosystem or by NPL site. USFWS recommended that a global PAS be done on the 100 Area, using the rationale that one injury triggers the NPL site. He noted the 100-HR-3 Operable Unit pump and treat probably will not stop the injury, triggering a PAS. So, for chromium and salmon, the PAS would become the whole 100 Area NPL site. Jamie noted that documents have been gathered for use in the 100 Area PAS and 100 Area Assessment. Copies can be provided upon request. Attached to these minutes is the most current list of documents.

Assessment plans would be written as needed and attached to the 100 Area PAS. The focus would be chromium impacts to salmon eggs, alevin and fry in the river from the 100-HR-3 Operable Unit. Jamie noted there are two phases: 1) planning and preparation; 2) injury study. Components of the planning and preparation phase include: review existing data, identify all injury pathways, write the Assessment Plan. The Assessment Plan contains a conceptual plan without the details of the work and requires a 30-day public review period. Jamie wants the Trustee role seen as able to go in, do the work, and get it done. The work will be phased and spans three years. The regulations require field study and this may lead to creating a redd, and monitoring egg development and water chemistry. As much planning and preparation work as possible needs to be done to minimize the amount of field work and laboratory work. At the fry stage, the pathway is the food chain and not porewater. Recovery at the fry stage may become important. Jamie noted DOE wants an IAG with USFWS to do this work. He is looking into NMFS to do the assessment. Their technical expertise could be used. His goals are to meet the regulations and stay in compliance using well defined objectives, and be acceptable to the Trustees. He noted the entire planning process is funded. There is sufficient money to write the PAS and assessment plan, do public involvement, and write some of the work plans. Geoff suggested noting to our own managers that, "DOE is doing a great job on this activity, please let DOE know at your next meeting."

**Action Item:** *Kay Kimmel to provide Dan Audet's mailing address to Dan Landeen.*

Refocusing Resources - Jamie Zeisloft noted that DOE has exceeded the limits of its resources, we need to do more with the same amount of money. He asked for full Council meetings every other month since technical meetings are increasing. Working Groups need to be setup. Members for the 100 Area Assessment Working Group would include: DOE; BHI technical support; USFWS; NMFS; fisheries biologist; interested Trustees. BHI is looking for a fisheries expert who is recognized in his field, but would be open to using an expert on staff at one of the Trustee agencies. Funds need to be focused away from Council meetings and toward studies and other technical work. There was a discussion on how often to meet, who would be involved in the Working Groups. John noted he might be able to get one of his fisheries people to attend one meeting. It was agreed to cut back to one day meetings eight times per year. Chris noted his \$20,000 is still available and he will discuss its use in the 100 Area PAS with his upper management.

### Working Group Assignments

- ▶ Working Group for the 100 Area Assessment: John Carleton, Chris Burford, Geoff Tallent, Jamie Zeisloft, Susan Hughs, and Bill Beckley as Trustees. Also to include Mike Thompson, Arlene Tortoso, Mr. Putts, Nick Iadanza, and Dan Audet. Administrative items are first on the agenda: write a Resolution and an IAG.
- ▶ BRMaP BRMiS Revegetation Manual Working Group: Jena Lewinsohn, Jay McConnaughey, Jake Jakabosky, Dan Landeen.
- ▶ CRCIA Working Group (screening assessment and the assessment) Trustees need to ensure their needs are met, and if risk thresholds are exceeded Trustees may need to do an injury assessment. This is a very sensitive issue and will require much internal discussion and good science to respond to it. Chris Burford, Jamie Zeisloft, John Carleton, Geoff Tallent and Jay McConnaughey.
- ▶ 1100 Area Working Group is still active.

HRA-EIS Discussion - Chris noted his letter was in the meeting packets, he also provided a table on land-use designations. He noted preservation is truly preservation, and it allows some recreation. Conservation was the original highest protection with consumptive use of resources permitted for mining and grazing only. Chris explained each of the land-use designations, noting that R&D and industrial are very similar. Agriculture is considered a high consumptive use of natural resources, higher than industrial. He provided large maps of the alternatives. Chris noted the preferred alternative is a collaborative effort among the counties, Tribes and DOE. His understanding is that the map would be revisited every 5 years. As long as the designations are based on sound technical reasons and policies, there is more justification to keep these designations. Next, Chris reviewed when Tom Ferns and Paul Krupin visited the Trustees, and he gave the history between now and then. He noted the CTUIR have become a cooperating agency and attend the twice weekly meetings. The process now being used to determine the land-use is a good one. The three counties and three Tribes are working together with DOE and have been working well for the last six weeks. Removing the remediation aspect from the EIS pleased the majority of the commentors. DOE stated they would remove remediation so they have made this commitment. However, Chris believes that DOE would like to step back from some of the promises that it made. DOE-RL has individuals that believe the remediation should be but back in. DOE-HQ is supportive of removing the remediation information, however, it is split on whether to reissue as draft or final. Mid- and upper-level DOE-RL management is not part of the discussions and they should be buying into this process.

Chris wants the Trustee Council to write a letter saying we cannot participate in this process as a council, however, this collaborative process is working well. Geoff says letter needs to remind DOE that they must build natural resources in their land-use plan. A second draft of the EIS should be written to provide detailed text to support the maps, and it should be available for public comment since so much of the information is new. Ideas were outlined for the letter: No we will not draft a map, reference the February meeting, and describe the new approach for the EIS; this is a site-wide issue and should not be limited to ER, impacts are felt site-wide, and at a minimum Site Infrastructure Division needs to be involved in this process; the new scope has not been shared with the public.

This land-use designation process is outside the Council scope, but not outside the scope of the individual Trustees. **Action Item:** *Chris Burford agreed to take the lead in writing this letter and will have a conference call next week on it.* Jay recommended everyone's management contact DOE management to issue another draft.

Accomplishments - Additions were made to the List of Accomplishments: 100 Area Assessment; DOE-ER has committed to preparing mitigation action plans, revegetating plans, etc.; TWRS avoidance and minimization on siting facilities; USFWS partnering has been very effective. Susan took comments. She will revise and send the electronic form to Kay for future updates.

CRCIA - A discussion on the importance of working with the CRCIA team was held. A Working Group was created to ensure Trustee issues are addressed in the CRCIA documents.

Next Meetings - The next HNRTC meetings are based on the tentative schedule sent out 04/15/97:

May 8 - Tri-Cities  
June 11-12 - Lowell, ID  
August 14 - Tri-Cities  
September 11 - Tri-Cities  
November 13 - ?

There would be no meetings in July, October, and December.