



## **Water Supply Availability Work Group**

### **Fish and Wildlife Subgroup**

#### **May 8, 2013 - Meeting Summary**

#### **Conference Call**

The fifth meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Flows subgroup was held May 8, 2013 via conference call. The following were in attendance: Jason Throneberry, Jason Phillips, Tony Ramick, Dan Magoulick, Delia Haak, Jim Petersen, Kent Thornton, Laura Brown, Tim Snell, Ken Gould, Mike Armstrong, Nicole Rowan, Edward Swaim, Steve Filipek, and Chris Soller.

The purpose of the call was to discuss the next steps for the fish and wildlife flows subgroup based on the March 27, 2013 workshop and the April 25, 2013 Water Supply Availability Work Group. Mike provided an overview of the April 10, 2013 Ad Hoc Meeting Summary. The purpose of the Ad Hoc meeting was to discuss how the potential fish and wildlife flows recommendations would fit into the Arkansas Water Plan Update and how this could be included in policy moving forward. An outcome of the Ad Hoc meeting was that the capability exists within existing statutes to incorporate risk-based standards in the future.

The group discussed the next steps in the meeting in the Ad Hoc meeting summary that were:

1. Summarize the ad hoc discussions that occurred in the 10 April meeting.
2. Prepare a strawperson framework or process that might be included in the State Water Plan to guide the development and application of any new or refined methods for estimating fish and wildlife flows. This process should include both scientific and socioeconomic considerations.
3. Present this framework or process to the Water Supply Fish and Wildlife Subgroup and, following comments and revisions, present this to the larger Water Supply Group.
4. Develop preliminary approaches for identifying specific stakeholder audiences and targeted messages on fish and wildlife flows and their relationship to other desired surface water uses. Emphasize the desired goal of satisfying all water uses.

The timeframes for items 2 and 3 were discussed. The group determined that we will complete items 1 and 2 by the end of July with item 2 completed by early June so that the Fish and Wildlife Subgroup could review and provide comment. Kent Thornton will draft the strawperson framework for the subgroup to review.

The group discussed the importance of outreach in item 4 above, particularly outreach to the agricultural community so that the recommendations of the subgroup are clear and uncertainties are minimized.

Tim Snell described the importance of adaptive management and suggested that it be strongly embedded in the Water Plan Update. Mike Armstrong noted one Ad Hoc meeting recommendation as part of the Water Plan Update was to propose a Science and Technology Committee that could provide input into future Water Plan Updates. One group member wanted further information about adaptive management and Kent



## Arkansas Water Plan Update



Thornton provided a few examples – a Bureau of Interior document and approaches the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have used for the Upper Mississippi River.<sup>1</sup>

Mike Armstrong will work with Tim Snell and Kathryn Hazelett to put a plan together to address item 4 above.

The subgroup will meet via conference call after item 2 above is drafted.

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<sup>1</sup><http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/elpubs/pdf/eba10.pdf>  
<http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/AdaptiveManagement/documents.html>