ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The conference call was convened at 9:30 a.m. by John Swett. There were self-introductions of all attending. Seth Shanahan chaired the meeting.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and an update to the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) was added. The agenda was approved.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve April 24, 2019 Meeting Notes

The April 24, 2019 meeting notes were approved with a minor edit (Moved by Doyle Wilson, seconded by Bill Lamb, and adopted by consensus).

WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

John Swett noted that Reclamation did not receive the letter from the Central Arizona Water Conservation District for Attachment A until late last week. The Final FY2020 Work Plan on the LCR MSCP website now has Attachment A included. John noted that the Technical Work Group met in May to review the Draft FY2020 Work Plan. There were no major changes and minor comments were incorporated into the Final FY2020 Work Plan. The requested approval amount for the FY2020 Work Plan is $27,104,814.


Move that the LCR MSCP Steering Committee approve, by consensus, the Final Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2020 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishment Report for $27,104,814 and encourage the LCR MSCP Program Manager to submit the approved Final Implementation Report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for consistency review (Moved by Jessica Neuwerth, seconded by Jon Sjoberg, and adopted by consensus).

GENERAL

Petition to List Threecorner Milkvetch: Carrie Ronning provided an update on the petition to list the Threecorner Milkvetch as endangered. The petition was received by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on April 25, 2019. She noted that the main driver for the listing is solar energy development in Nevada. If it is listed, it won’t have any effect on the LCR MSCP, as it is already a covered species under the program. It is automatically covered under Section 10 and Reclamation will send a letter to the FWS to reinitiate consultation to add it under Section 7. It has not been posted to the Federal Register yet.

DCP Update: Agreements for the Upper Basin and Lower Basin DCP’s were executed in May by the seven basin states. The agreements lay out how the DCP will be implemented over time. The Lower Basin DCP replies on the August 24-month study to project January Lake Mead Elevation. Lake Mead Elevations are what trigger DCP contributions to Lake Mead. If Lake Mead elevations are lower than 1090, there will be some implementation of DCP contributions going forward. These include contributions by Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico. The United States and Mexico are working on a Joint Engineer’s Report to implement Mexico’s Binational Water Scarcity Plan. The DCP will be in place through 2026. A planning effort to extend the 2007 shortage guidelines and the DCP will be initiated in 2020. The final agreements are located on Reclamation’s Water Operations webpage.

SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

The Steering Committee took action on one item.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.