

**Meeting Summary
Susitna–Watana Hydroelectric Project
Cultural Resources TWG Meeting
March 5, 2013, 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
AEA Offices
813 Northern Lights Blvd
Anchorage, AK**

Attendees:

Organization	Name
ADNR/SHPO	Shina duVall*
ADNR/OHA	Richard VanderHoek
AEA	Sandy Hayes
AEA	Betsy McGregor
BLM	John Jangala*
Charles M. Mobley & Associates	Charles Mobley
CIRI	Dara Glass
CIRI – Stoel Rives	Cherise Oram*
Coalition for Susitna Dam Alternatives	Becky Long*
FERC	Frank Winchell*
HDR	Tracie Krauthoefer
MWH	Kirby Gilbert
MWH	Heather Williams
NLUR	David Guilfoyle
NLUR	Justin Hays
URS	Bill Simeone
Van Ness Feldman	Chuck Sensiba

* by telephone

Kirby Gilbert (MWH) facilitated introductions and gave an overview of the meeting objectives, which were to provide an update on the status of the study plan documents, the final 2012 study report, 2013 study progress and next steps.

Chuck Mobley (Charles M. Mobley & Associates) presented slides indicating the current status and upcoming plans for cultural and paleontology studies.

2013 Study Plan Status

It was noted that project documents showing trail information should be clearly marked to reflect that not all identified trails are public. Dara Glass (CIRI) indicated that the slides incorrectly reference Chickaloon and Moose Creek Native Association when they should reference Chickaloon and Moose Creek Tribal Council.

Richard VanderHoek (ADNR/OHA) confirmed that ADNR/OHA did not comment on the RSP since they had commented heavily on the PSP and felt that BLM and others adequately covered ADNR/OHA's potential comments on the RSP.

Becky Long (Coalition for Susitna Dam Alternatives) asked whether an elders' council has been scheduled. Bill Simeone (URS) indicated that a meeting for Ahtna elders has been scheduled for March 26th in Cantwell and that invitations are forthcoming. There had been some confusion over a date earlier, but the 26th is the correct date. Cherise Oram (CIRI – Stoel Rives) indicated that a Dena'ina conference has not yet been scheduled pending CIRI contractual arrangements. Bill Simeone agreed that AEA and CIRI need to engage formally to help the scheduling move forward. Dara Glass indicated that CIRI is in working out some unrelated issues with Wayne Dyok (AEA) and Betsy McGregor (AEA) that need resolution before these arrangements can move forward. John Jangala (BLM) requested an invitation to the Ahtna elders' conference which was agreed too. Chuck Mobley indicated that the reason implementing the Dena'ina study component is less developed at this time (than Ahtna) is due to a previous study team perception that most pertinent Dena'ina information had already been captured and documented. Implementation details for the Dena'ina component are being worked on and will move ahead with the AEA and CIRI negotiations.

2013 Scope of Work

Chuck Mobley led a detailed discussion regarding the 2013 scope of work listed in the final presentation slide. Justin Hays (NLUR) has been and will continue to be a lead person for field work efforts.

2013 Archaeological Investigation (Task 2)

Justin Hays described the 2013 archaeological investigation plans. Six crews of six people will be conducting aerial/helicopter surveys and pedestrian surveys, primarily in the APE. The focus will be inventory and preliminary evaluation. Some work will be completed by about June 3rd, with a second phase of work completed about August 16th.

It was noted that the state archaeologist has not yet received an unredacted version of the 2012 cultural resources study report. The unredacted file needs to be provided to BLM, ADNR/OHA, and FERC as a privileged document.

2013 Paleontological Investigation (Task 3)

Charles Mobley stated that specialist Tom Bundtzen is contracted to NLUR to perform this work. Justin Hays said that the paleontological investigations will be a smaller effort than the archaeological work, with about a 14-day field work effort focused in three sedimentary deposit areas (Watana basin, Campbell and Tyone). Tyone is where Woolly Mammoth bones were found. Richard VanderHoek said that OHA maintains a paleontology database that should be queried by the team, as it shows on the order of 100 known sites. He also noted that the OHA has

permitting authority over paleontological investigations, separate from archaeological investigations. Also, ADNR/OHA would appreciate 2013 investigation findings being provided for entry into their database.

2013 Ethnogeography Investigation (Task 4)

Bill Simeone indicated that a signed contract is in place with Ahtna, and that Ahtna representatives have expressed particular interest in hearing from AEA about project biological studies. Dara Glass asked if Ahtna has indicated whether they prefer to open their elders' conference to other groups. Bill Simeone said that Ahtna has elected not to open it to others and prefers a focused meeting. Dara Glass said that is as she expected, and that her question was in part due to earlier conversations about Knik and Chickaloon holding a joint meeting despite their different ethnic heritage. Becky Long (Coalition for Susitna Dam Alternatives) asked how the Ahtna interest in biological studies was transmitted. Bill Simeone said that Ahtna, Inc. representatives had provided the information.

The Dena'ina study component is awaiting resolution of contractual issues as discussed earlier in the meeting. Chuck Mobley asked Dara Glass if she has any guesses what information the Dena'ina elders would be interested in hearing, once the Dena'ina study component is under contract. Dara Glass indicated she did not have any information on that topic at this time.

2013 Paleoenvironmental Investigation (Task 5)

Justin Hays (NLUR) said that the paleoenvironmental investigations will involve a 10-day effort by five people. The goal is to identify 3-5 candidate lakes with suitable bathymetry to use in spring 2014 paleoenvironmental coring efforts. Paleoenvironmental specialists tend to be fisheries scientists and botanists. Some preliminary assessments have been made based on existing bathymetry information. Sites identified in 2013 could include both direct and indirect APE locations, depending on survey results.

2013 Facilities Survey (Task 6)

Chuck Mobley indicated that they will be continuing undertaking cultural resources surveys, as required, for the 2013 geotechnical investigation sites or field camps with ground disturbing activities. Betsy McGregor indicated that there will be a field camp at Stephan Lake Lodge, and housing of some personnel at existing lodges (Alpine Lodge, Cantwell, Talkeetna). The earlier plans to use an airstrip location identified in 80s study work are no longer on the table, and will not need Section 106 consultation. Dara Glass indicated that there are issues surrounding use of a Knik-Ahtna airstrip associated with the Stephan Lake Lodge field camp that need to be resolved.

John Jangala (BLM) requested that a list of sites requiring Section 106 consultation be provided as early as possible. There were some permit applications that came in late in the season in 2012, after Section 106 consultations had been conducted for the season.

Action Items:

- AEA and CIRI will consult more regarding the Dena'ina component of the ethnogeographic investigations.
- ADNR/OHA paleontology database will be queried, 2013 study findings will be input into the database, and paleontology permits will be obtained.
- An unredacted version of the 2012 cultural resources report will be filed with the state, BLM and FERC.
- AEA will send appropriate representatives to the March 26th Ahtna elders' conference.
- A list of 2013 facilities locations needing Section 106 consultation will be provided as soon as possible to BLM and SHPO offices.

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