

## Uncommon Dialogue on Hydropower, River Restoration, and Public Safety

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### March 2022 Update

The following e-mail provides updates from March 2022 on recent and upcoming activities within the Uncommon Dialogue (UCD) on Hydropower, River Restoration, and Public Safety.

#### WG 6 Improve Federal Hydropower Licensing, Relicensing, and License Surrender Processes

The Drafting Team completed their amendments to the Federal Power Act and sent the final package for voluntary sign-on by participants of the UCD. The package has obtained sign-on from Tribes, Conservation Caucus groups, and Industry representatives. We look forward to continuing to obtain sign-on. Please notify your caucus leads and send your voluntary sign-on to Mark Anthony Sebarrotin ([msebarrotin@kearnswest.com](mailto:msebarrotin@kearnswest.com) (<mailto:msebarrotin@kearnswest.com>)), Jim Downing ([jdowning@kearnswest.com](mailto:jdowning@kearnswest.com) (<mailto:jdowning@kearnswest.com>)), and Anna West ([awest@kearnswest.com](mailto:awest@kearnswest.com) (<mailto:awest@kearnswest.com>)). This is a VERY significant achievement for everyone involved in the Uncommon Dialogue! Co-Chairs and Leads of Working Groups 6 and 7 are developing a strategy for legislative and agency outreach for the Working Group 6 package.

#### Steering Committee (SC)

The next Steering Committee meeting is being scheduled and is expected to take place in late Spring. In March, the Planning Group met to discuss the 2022 Process Plan and chart a path forward for the UCD in 2022. The Planning Group will continue to meet throughout April to further discuss Uncommon Dialogue updates and progress and how to support Working Group efforts.

#### Working Group (WG) 1 Accelerate Development of Hydropower Technologies and Practices to Improve Generation Efficiency, Environmental Performance, and Solar and Wind Integration

The Co-Chairs are finalizing a white paper on technology following receipt of comments from both Conservation and Industry participants. The document has been sent to the commenters for a final review. The Co-Chairs will then submit the document concurrently to the Steering Committee and WG 1 participants for voluntary sign-on. We appreciate the thoughtful reviews and feedback.

## WG 2 Dam Safety

WG2 is developing a plan for 2022, based on the value that WG2 can provide on relevant topic areas. In 2022, WG2 plans to convene a workshop, or a series of small group conversations centered around dam safety and dam removal needs and consider collaborative opportunities for the UCD. The Co-Chairs of WG2 are currently working on a WG2 participant list with both powered and non-powered dam owners and other perspectives.

## WG 3&5 Increase Basin-Scale Decision-Making and Access to River-Related Data and Advance Effective River Restoration through Improved Off-site Mitigation Strategies

The Basin-Scale Subgroup continues to meet to discuss objectives and potential work products as well as host guest presenters to share experiences and perspectives on basin-scale processes. The Subgroup is working to schedule additional guest speakers in the coming months, including staff from state agencies and NGOs. The next WG 3&5 meeting will likely be later in the spring and will include an update from the Basin-Scale Subgroup.

## WG 4 Improve the Measurement, Valuation of, and Compensation for Hydropower Flexibility and Reliability Services and Support for Enhanced Environmental Performance

Working Group 4 will meet in late April. In 2022, WG4 may draft white papers on relevant topics to determine actionable outcomes and will further explore how to incentivize hydropower that goes “above and beyond,” grid valuation, and methane/life cycle emissions.

## WG 7 Policy, Strategy, and Implementation of the 3 Rs (Rehabilitation, Retrofit, and Removal)

WG7 members are continuing their efforts to incorporate recommendations into the pending Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), monitor the Congressional appropriations process, and support key legislative initiatives. Through their Congressional outreach in February, 15 Congressional offices submitted all or a portion of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Dams Act language for consideration in WRDA. In addition to their legislative work, WG7 members are continuing to develop strategies to ensure that the intent of the “3R” recommendations – concerning dam Rehabilitation, Retrofitting, and Removal -- is understood, supported, and incorporated into the implementation plans of the agencies that are receiving funding from the Infrastructure Bill. WG7 members are also preparing to work in close coordination with WG6 members on the legislative outreach for the FPA package as mentioned above.

## Tribal Engagement

Participant Tribes were briefed on the benefits and implications of the WG6 Drafting Team legislative package. Tribes are currently reviewing the package and determining whether individual Tribes and Tribal associations are able to voluntarily sign on to the package.

## River Connectivity Workshop

The Uncommon Dialogue is planning an upcoming workshop on River Connectivity on April 27 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET. All Uncommon Dialogue participants are welcome to attend and encouraged to invite their colleagues working on river connectivity. The workshop will feature a variety of speakers – including representatives from Tribes, the Conservation community, and Industry – to surface the broad, multi-faceted, and layered nature of river connectivity. If you are interested in attending the workshop, please reach out to Mark Anthony Sebarrotin (msebarrotin@kearnswest.com (mailto:msebarrotin@kearnswest.com) ) or Morgan Lommele (mlommele@kearnswest.com (mailto:mlommele@kearnswest.com) ).

If there are others you think would like to get engaged with the Uncommon Dialogue, please forward their contact information to Katy Kennedy (kkennedy@kearnswest.com (mailto:kkennedy@kearnswest.com) ).

For more information on the Uncommon Dialogue, refer to Stanford's Uncommon Dialogue website: <https://woods.stanford.edu/research/hydropower>.

Please feel free to contact Dan Reicher (dreicher@stanford.edu (mailto:dreicher@stanford.edu) ) or Kelsey Rugani (krugani@kearnswest.com (mailto:krugani@kearnswest.com) ) if you have any questions!