

Uncommon Dialogue on Hydropower, River Restoration, and Public Safety

July 2023 Update

This email provides updates on recent and upcoming activities within the Uncommon Dialogue (UCD) on Hydropower, River Restoration, and Public Safety.

Plenary Group and Planning Group

UCD Vision: The Planning Group continues to meet bi-weekly to discuss working group activities and future UCD endeavors. In June, the Planning Group met with representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) Hydropower Vision to discuss upcoming opportunities for collaboration and to coordinate synergies between the efforts.

WG 1 Accelerate Development of Hydropower Technologies and Practices to Improve Generation Efficiency, Environmental Performance, and Solar and Wind Integration

Work Plan in Development: The Co-Chairs continue to revise a work plan outlining the activities for the working group. Activities may include a series of workshops exploring technologies and innovations across different sectors, engagement with subject-matter experts on the 3R's, and a white paper expanding on technologies and innovations not addressed in the previous working group product.

WG 1 is seeking a representative from the Environmental-NGO and Conservation community to serve as a Co-Chair. Interested parties inquire with Mark Anthony Sebarrotin (msebarrotin@kearnswest.com (<mailto:msebarrotin@kearnswest.com>)) or a member of the Facilitation Team.

WG 2 Dam Safety

Dam Inventory Gap Analysis Workshop Underway: The Co-Chairs are developing a three-hour workshop where WG 2 participants can refine the scope of work for a dam inventory gaps analysis, identify who can conduct the work, then coordinate its implementation. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for Septmeber 2023.

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

Basin-Scale White Paper: Basin-scale subgroup members continue to revise the draft white paper, A Basin-Scale Approach: Options, Best Practices, and Recommendations to Advance Basin-Scale Planning and Licensing. WG 3&5 will reconvene after an updated draft has been shared for review.

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

EEP Policy Document and Methane Fact Sheet Underway: WG 4 members continue to expand and refine the draft policy document on qualifying hydropower projects for enhanced environmental performance. Simultaneously, WG 4 members are developing a fact sheet aimed at clarifying the state of the science around methane emissions associated with hydropower operations.

Working Group (WG) 6 Improve Federal Hydropower Licensing, Relicensing, and License Surrender Processes

Community and Hydropower Improvement Act Revisions: The WG 6 Drafting Team continues to meet with parties raising questions and concerns about the Community and Hydropower Improvement Act and is seeking improvements to the bill text. The Drafting Team is closely coordinating with the bill sponsors to receive technical drafting assistance from affected and interested agencies.

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

NDSP Reauthorization, 21st CDA Reintroduction, and WRDA: WG 7 continues to meet bi-weekly to coordinate UCD legislative priorities. The WG is working towards reauthorization of the National Dam Safety Program (NDSP), reintroduction of the 21st Century Dams Act, tracking Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) funding implementation, and goals for Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) advocacy.

Tribal Engagement

Tribes, Hydropower, and Co-producing Results: Preliminary planning is underway for “Tribes and Hydropower” workshops. Ridges to Riffles of Northern California will lead tribal engagement strategies for the workshops and will advise on how to include tribes in other working groups, including WG 8.

WG 8 Workforce Development

Launched: Following up on the kick-off WG 8 workshop at the Waterpower Week conference in May, the group is identifying co-chairs, developing a list of themes and priorities for the group's work, and identifying data sources. The working group is planning a follow-up webinar in August or September. Please reach out to Kelsey Rugani (krugani@kearnswest.com (<mailto:krugani@kearnswest.com>)) if you are interested in learning more.

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 question