
Hello Steering Committee Members,

We are writing to provide a few updates and to determine your availability for the next Steering Committee meeting.

Scheduling:

- We are hoping to convene the next 2-hour Steering Committee (SC) meeting within the next 3 weeks. **Can you please complete the following Doodle Poll by COB, Tuesday, February 23rd?**
 - https://doodle.com/poll/kutysgf5icgdgrqs?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

Priority Updates:

- **The Opinion-Editorial (Op-Ed):** Some of you may have been aware of a draft op-ed that was underway by Bob Irvin, American Rivers, Malcolm Woolf, National Hydropower Association (NHA) and Dan Reicher, Stanford University. Bob, Malcolm and Dan have decided not to pursue publishing the op-ed at this time.
- **Convening Working Group (WG) #7: Advocate for Increased Funding for U.S. Dam Rehabilitation, Retrofits, and Removals.** With major pending infrastructure, stimulus and budget reconciliation discussions underway in Congress, along with the Biden Administration's first 100 days, we are convening this WG as soon as possible. Dave Steindorf, Hydro Reform Coalition (HRC), Brian Graber, American Rivers, and Malcolm Woolf, NHA, have agreed to co-chair. They will convene the group, including river conservation NGOs, industry, climate, tribal, and dam safety interests and the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) as soon as possible (hoping for next week), and will meet as frequently as needed to develop a set of recommendations on funding the 3Rs that ideally will be supported by as many Uncommon Dialogue (UCD) participants as possible. The draft document will be shared with the SC for review and input and once the WG #7 draft is complete, it will be shared with all UCD participants for to consider whether your organization can support the document.

Additional Updates:

- **WG Co-Chairs:** The facilitation team (Dan and K&W) and the Planning Group are in the process of identifying potential WG Co-Chairs. We'll share the draft list with you before we begin reaching out to folks understanding that this will likely be an iterative process where we will reach out to gauge interest, availability and pursue alternative recommended co-chairs, as appropriate.
- **Recent and Upcoming Valuation Working Group Subcommittee Meetings:** The three Valuation Working Group Subcommittees are starting to meet! The Valuation Policy Subcommittee met on January 29th (notes attached) and is meeting again on Wednesday, February 24th. The Valuation Tool Subcommittee met on February 9th, and the Grid Valuation Subcommittee is in the process of scheduling their first meeting. These initial meetings are focused around establishing objectives and focus areas for the groups. A summary of these meetings will be included in the end-of-month email round-up.
- **SC and Planning Group (PG) Membership:** Email invitations have been circulated to the

Federal Inland Hydropower Working Group (a group of federal agencies), the Association of Clean Water Administrators, the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, and John Banks with Penobscot Nation inviting them to participate in the Steering Committee (or select representatives) and to identify additional WG member suggestions. We are working to identify an investor-owned utility representative and will be coordinating with the industry folks on the Steering Committee to identify a Planning Group member. Once we have two tribal representatives on the SC, we'll then enlist one representative to be on the PG.

- **January 25th SC Meeting Summary:** Attached you will find the summary from the January 25th SC meeting. Please reach out with any questions!
- **The facilitation team has been working on:**
 - **SC Charter:** To memorialize the SC process, including its membership, roles/responsibilities and communications structure, we are drafting a SC Charter. A draft will be shared prior to and discussed further during our next meeting.
 - **Stakeholder Database:** We are in the process of reorganizing and adding to the master stakeholder database, and will share the updated version with you all once it's in good shape!
 - **SharePoint Site:** The Kearns & West team is also in the process of setting up the Phase II SharePoint site where all of the SC and WG materials will be housed.

Thank you for completing the Doodle poll. Please feel free to reach out with any questions!