

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

September 15, 2010 Meeting

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

The following notes are a summary of issues that are intended to point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the “record” of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.

Meeting Minutes

TMT reviewed the Official Minutes and Facilitator Notes from meetings 8/25 and 9/8. A change was made to the 8/25 Facilitator notes, on page 1 under section “Dworshak Operations”: Strike ‘by the end of September’ in the sentence referring to refill target 1520’.

With that change, and no additional edits to the notes, both sets were considered final.

Treaty Fishing

Steve Barton, COE, reported that the operation per treaty fishing request presented at the last TMT meeting was underway and that the COE would continue to operate this way if the request were extended into next week. Tom Lorz, CRITFC, reported that as of today’s meeting, TAC had not requested additional treaty fishing operations but likely would for at least a couple days next week. He agreed that next week’s request would likely be the last for Autumn Treaty Fishing this year. TMT will revisit this item at the next scheduled meeting on 9/29.

Draft Water Management Plan

Steve Barton, COE, reminded TMT that the first draft of the WMP will be available for review by the end of September. Rick Kruger, Oregon, said FPAC proposed that any substantive changes from last year be explained in comment balloons for easy tracking. The COE agreed to this proposal and asked that, likewise, any suggested substantive changes from TMT members should be tracked with comment balloons. TMT members agreed to this process.

Action/Next Steps: The draft WMP will be on the agenda for the 9/29 TMT meeting.

Dworshak Operations

Steve Barton, COE, reported that temperatures were still cool at Lower Granite, with tailwater temperatures below 62°. Dworshak is being operated to continue releasing the full 200 KAF of water per the Nez Perce agreement; currently Dworshak was at elevation 1521’ and releasing 2.4 kcfs. Steve Hall, Walla Walla District COE, added that the final foot of draft will occur over the next two or three days, after which the project will go to minimums (1.5 kcfs). They also reported that scheduled maintenance for NERC

certification did occur last week, as had been discussed during the 9/8 TMT conference call. Barton said that the project was expected to hit 1520' on either 9/17 or 9/18.

Action/Next Steps: TMT will wrap up discussion of this Dworshak operation at the 9/29 meeting.

June 2010 High Runoff Event Report

Tony Norris, BPA, referred TMT to a BPA posed as a link to the agenda. The report is part of an outreach effort to explain the steps the agency took to manage the hydro system and integrate wind energy during high runoff in June. A public meeting will be held on 10/7 from 8:30-10:30 am at BPA, Room 905. All were invited to attend, and were asked to contact Steve Kearns, skearns@bpa.gov, to RSVP.

Action/Next Steps: As the 10/7 date was a conflict for some TMT members, Tony said he will also invite the presenters to come talk with TMT sometime in November, during a time that works for all or most TMT members.

Operations Review

Reservoirs: Mary Mellema, Reclamation, reported that Hungry Horse was at elevation 3544.39', releasing 3.9 kcfs and targeting an end of September elevation of 3540'. Grand Coulee was at elevation 1279.8' and targeting 1283' at the end of September. Reclamation was commended for a job well done managing Hungry Horse this year.

Steve Barton, COE, reported on COE projects. Libby inflows were 4.4 kcfs with outflows of 6 kcfs; the project was targeting elevation 2439' by the end of September.

- Jim Litchfield, MT, suggested that this year's operations again raise the need to look at a better operation for Libby. Steve Barton acknowledged this and said Libby is a complex reservoir with a lot of different demands.
 - **Action:** Barton offered to take the feedback to his Seattle District COE counterparts to discuss the need to balance Libby operations to meet local and system-wide needs.

Albeni Falls was at 2061.88' with inflows of 2.9 kcfs and outflows of 15 kcfs. Dworshak inflows were .8 kcfs and 2.4 kcfs outflows and an elevation of 1521'. Lower Granite outflows were 27.5 kcfs, with a weekly average of 25.9 kcfs and a summer seasonal average of 47.0 kcfs (the summer target was 50 kcfs). Priest Rapids outflows were 61.1 kcfs with a weekly average of 51.2 kcfs. McNary flows were 87.8 kcfs, with a weekly average 76.3 kcfs and a seasonal average 154.8 kcfs (summer target 200 kcfs). Bonneville outflows were 93.1 kcfs with an 85.2 kcfs weekly average.

Fish: Tom Lorz, CRITFC, reported on the status of the fish. Adults at Bonneville were past their peak. Adult chinook numbers were strong; jacks were looking good, close to the 10-year average; steelhead numbers were still strong; and Coho were above the 10-year average. This year shows a strong adult return to the Snake River. The 13 day (9/1-9/15) total subyearling Chinook index was approximately 2,130 at Lower Granite Dam. The 13 day (9/1-9/15) total subyearling Chinook index was approximately 57,500 at McNary, John Day, and Bonneville. The 13 day (9/1-9/15) average subyearling Chinook passage at McNary Dam was approximately 1,800.

Power system – Nothing to report.

Water quality – Nothing to report.

Next Meeting: Face to Face, 9/29

Agenda items include:

- Autumn Treaty Fishing wrap-up
- Draft Water Management Plan
- Dworshak Operations wrap-up
- Operations Review

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES

September 15, 2010

Notes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT conference call was chaired by Steve Barton (COE) and facilitated by Erin Halton (DS Consulting). Representatives of Oregon, Montana, USFWS, COE, BOR, BPA, Idaho, CRITFC and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript. Anyone with questions or comments about this summary should give them to the TMT chair or bring them to the next meeting.

2. Review Meeting Minutes for August 25 and September 8

There was one substantive edit to the August 25 facilitator's notes:

- In the last paragraph on page 1 under Dworshak Operations, delete "by the end of September" from "Using a two-day step-down approach to reach elevation 1,520 feet..." This change clarifies that elevation 1,520 feet will be attained on September 18-19, not September 30.

There were no other comments or changes to the facilitator's notes or official minutes for August 25 and September 8, so with this change they will be considered final.

3. Autumn Treaty Fishing

There will probably be another treaty fishery SOR submitted for next week, Barton and Karl Kanbergs (COE) reported. Barton noted that if next week's SOR is like the current one, the COE will probably implement it as written. The tribes met this morning to decide, based on this week's catch numbers, whether another fishery will be scheduled for next week, Tom Lorz (CRITFC) reported. Lorz doubted there would be more fishing the following week.

The next TMT meeting on September 29 will include a treaty fishery wrap-up. Any new information between now and then will be emailed to TMT members.

4. Draft Water Management Plan

Barton gave TMT a heads-up that the first draft of the final 2010 Water Management Plan will be posted to the TMT web page for review no later than the end of September. The next TMT meeting on September 29 will include a discussion of comment period deadlines and the general process for updating

the 2010 WMP and fall/winter update. The WMP draft will be posted in Microsoft Word so comments can be submitted in “track changes” format. Significant layout and formatting changes to the 2010 WMP will be merged into the document before it’s posted for comments. Rick Kruger (Oregon) asked that the COE explain any substantive changes from the last version in the form of a comment “balloon” next to the change. The COE will document the reasoning behind substantive changes; Barton asked commenters to do the same.

5. Dworshak Operations

Temperatures in the Lower Granite forebay and tailwater remain cold at less than 62 degrees F, Barton reported. The project is releasing the last of the 200 kaf of Nez Perce entitlement water per the 2010 Dworshak plan. The reservoir elevation is currently 1,521 feet. This morning, outflows dropped from 4.8 kcfs to 2.4 kcfs for the last few days of drafting toward elevation 1,520 feet, probably on September 17-18.

NERC certification testing of the Dworshak units caused a slight interruption in flows, which the COE coordinated with the Nez Perce Tribe as reported at the September 8 TMT meeting. The tribe had no objections to the testing. When the reservoir hits elevation 1,520 feet on September 17-18, the project will go to minimum flows of 4.5 kcfs through the generators plus 1.6 kcfs over the spillway. There will be a wrap-up discussion of Dworshak operations at the next TMT meeting on September 29.

6. June 2010 High-Runoff Event Report

In response to a high level of interest among ratepayers, customers and utilities, BPA is doing regional outreach on how the June 2010 high-runoff event was handled with 2,800 MW of wind capacity in BPA’s balancing authority area. This year marks the first time high runoff has coincided with a significant amount of wind capacity installed on the system, Tony Norris (BPA) noted. A report on this issue is linked to today’s TMT agenda.

There will be a public meeting October 7 in the BPA rates hearing room to discuss the June 2010 high-runoff event. Norris has requested that the presentation, which is a couple of hours long, be shared with TMT members. This would be an appropriate topic for the TMT year-end review but the presentation is too lengthy. Lorz suggested that BPA post the presentation prior to the TMT presentation so TMT members can review it and bring questions. Norris will work with other TMT members to set a date for the presentation, probably sometime in November. With a currently installed wind capacity of over 3,000 MW on the system now, interest in this topic will no doubt continue to grow.

7. Operations Review

a. Reservoirs. Hungry Horse is at elevation 3,544.39 feet, releasing 3.9 kcfs, headed toward elevation 3,540 feet at the end of September. Grand Coulee is at elevation 1,279.8 feet, headed toward the end of September elevation target of 1,283 feet.

Libby inflows are 4.4 kcfs. The project has been discharging 6-7 kcfs over the last several days, headed toward an end of September elevation target of 2,439 feet. Jim Litchfield (Montana) commented that the combination of VARQ flood control, sturgeon and salmon operations doesn't seem to be well integrated. He suggested TMT "start with a clean sheet of paper" to work toward a better operation, focusing on November and December leading to flood control in January. The COE will note the feedback and work on it, Barton replied.

Albeni Falls is at elevation 2,061.88 feet and discharging 15 kcfs, with inflows of 12.9 kcfs as it drafts toward a minimum elevation of 2,061 feet. The project is back to normal operations after adjusting flows to assist with work at Boundary Dam.

Dworshak inflows are currently 0.8 kcfs. Discharges dropped this morning from 4.8 to 2.4 kcfs.

Seasonal flows for summer are now available, as well as weekly average flows. Lower Granite discharges are 27.5 kcfs. The summer seasonal average was 47.0 kcfs, just missing the 50 kcfs flow objective. Lower Granite weekly average discharges are 25.9 kcfs. Priest Rapids discharges are 61.1 kcfs, with a weekly average of 51.2 kcfs. McNary is discharging 87.8 kcfs, with a seasonal average of 154.8 kcfs which fell short of the 200 kcfs objective, reflecting the below average water year. The weekly average discharge for McNary is 76.3 kcfs. Bonneville is discharging 87.8 kcfs, with a weekly average discharge of 85.2 kcfs. The lowest 7-day average at Bonneville has been 72.7 kcfs, and for the most part weekly averages have been above 80 kcfs. There was general acknowledgement that flows this year turned out to be better than predicted.

b. FISH. Tom Lorz (CRITFC) reported on adult and juvenile passage numbers according to the DART website. Fall Chinook adult passage counts are dropping as forecasted for this time of year. Dave Wills (USFWS) noted that the seasonal counts for fall chinook are above the 10 year average but not as strong as predicted. Steelhead numbers are surprisingly good, Lorz said. However, coho counts are lower than desired. Jack returns are above average. According to PIT tag data, 2010 looks like a decent year for Snake River returns, which is good news.

Juvenile passage numbers are dropping, and those that remain in the system are either wild fish or originated in the Clearwater River. McNary counts

are down to less than 1,000 fish per day on some days. These numbers are typical for September.

c. Power System. There was nothing to report today.

d. Water Quality. There was nothing to report today.

8. Next Meeting

The next TMT meeting will be in person September 29. A final report on autumn treaty fishing, discussion of the draft Water Management Plan, wrap-up of Dworshak operations, and the usual operations review are on the agenda.

Name	Affiliation
Rick Kruger	Oregon
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Dave Wills	USFWS
Steve Barton	COE
Mary Mellema	BOR
Tony Norris	BPA
Kim Johnson	COE
Steve Hall	COE Walla Walla
Rob Dies	Iberdrola Renewables
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Tom Lorz	CRITFC

Phone:	
John Hart	EWEB
Alex Cibarra	Grant PUD
Tim Heizenrader	Centaurus
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Russ George	WMC
Shane Scott	PPC
Rob Allerman	Deutsch Bank
Ruth Burris	PGE
Barry Espenson	CBB
Doug Vine	Thompson Reuters
Richelle Beck	DRA
Tom Le	Puget Sound Energy
Rich Dominigue	NOAA