

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

January 21, 2015

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator, Emily Plummer; Notes, Tory Hines DS Consulting

The following Facilitator's Summary is intended to capture basic discussion, decisions and actions, as well as 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.

Review of Meeting Minutes

The November 19th, December 3rd, December 17th and January 7th Official Minutes and Mediator's Summaries were approved.

Water Supply Forecast

Doug Baus, COE-NWD, provided an update on the official December and January water supply forecasts which are posted on the TMT website. Mary Mellema, BOR, noted that the volumes for the final January forecast for Hungry Horse Dam:

- January-July: 2,450 kaf (117% of average);
- April - August: 2,265 kaf (117%); and,
- May-September: 1,980 kaf (117%)

Doug noted additional January forecasts:

- The Dalles April-August: 87 maf (100% of average),
- Lower Granite April-July: 21 maf (105%),
- Libby April-August: 6.3 maf (107%),
- Dworshak April-July: 2.1 maf (88%),
- Grand Coulee April-July: 50 maf (99%), and
- Albeni Falls April-July: 1.2 maf (109%).

He continued that the only observation worth noting is that as of January 20th, The Dalles forecast is at 96% of the average and 84 maf, resulting in a slight reduction from the January 8th forecast which was at 100% of normal. Doug also stated that the snow water equivalent in the Cascade Region is well below average, however additional water supplied in the Rockies is keeping The Dalles water supply near average.

Chum Spawning Operation

Paul Wagner, NOAA, discussed the chum spawning operation, noting the operation will continue to maintain a minimum tailwater elevation of 13ft, pending additional information. Charles Morrill, WA, added that the operation will be reexamined once data is reviewed and discussed internally and with FPAC; he suggested revisiting this topic at the next TMT meeting. Doug Baus provided additional information on the Bonneville Dam forecast, stating that tailwater is operating within the 17-19ft range, well above the 13 foot minimum. He noted that according to the NWRFC Bonneville Dam inflows will be between 185-195 kcfs over the next 10 day period.

Snake River Dredging

Steve Hall, COE-NWW, provided an update on the Snake River dredging operation. Steve noted the project is about 15% complete with a total of 1,656 cubic yards dredged thus far. The expected completion date is February 28th, which is dependent upon whether the Ice Harbor survey reveals the dredging was done to the Corps' satisfaction. He noted that disposed sediment is being used to create a shallow habitat for fall chinook and lamprey. Dave Statler, Nez Perce, asked about salmonid and lamprey monitoring and what happens if the monitoring finds that the operation is harming fish. Steve responded that both impact to fish and water quality monitoring is being conducted and that the Walla Walla District webpage has more information, as well as contact information for those who want more information. Dave Statler requested any updates regarding biological data that comes available prior to completion of the project. Lisa Wright, COE-NWD, noted that information about the monitoring plan can be found on the TMT webpage under Final PSMP and RODs in Appendix J (<http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/ProgrammaticSedimentManagementPlan.aspx>).

Operations Review

Reservoirs: Lisa Wright, COE, reported on Corps projects:

- Libby midnight elevation was 2,410.1ft, with 4.3kcfs inflow and 4.1kcfs outflow.
- Albeni Falls midnight elevation was 2,051.3ft, with 23.1kcfs inflow and 17.7kcfs outflow.
- Dworshak midnight elevation was 1,540.8ft, with 5.5kcfs inflow and 1.6kcfs outflow.
- Lower Granite average inflow was 42.2kcfs.
- McNary average inflow was 193.9kcfs.
- Bonneville average inflow was 203.9kcfs

Mary Mellema, BOR, reported on Reclamation projects:

- Hungry Horse midnight elevation was 3,543ft, with 6.4kcfs outflow.
- Grand Coulee elevation was 1,279.7ft; they are currently drafting to reach drumgate maintenance elevations for mid-March.

Fish: Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported on fish. He noted the adult numbers for the year are up and January is the slow point of the season. Paul also indicated that Lower Monumental met the Steelhead criteria and chum emergence will be an upcoming topic at TMT.

Water Quality: Nothing to report.

Power System: Nothing to report.

The next TMT meeting will be a conference call meeting on February 4th at 9:00am.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES
January 21, 2015**

Notes: Pat Vivian

1, Introduction

Doug Baus, COE, chaired this TMT meeting facilitated by Emily Plummer, DS Consulting. Representatives of Washington, NOAA, COE, BOR, BPA, Montana, Idaho, Nez Perce, Colville, CRITFC/Umatilla, Yakama and others participated. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Meeting Minutes – November 19, December 3, December 17, and January 7

The minutes and facilitator's notes for all four meetings were approved as final.

3. Water Supply Forecast

Baus and Mary Mellema, BOR, gave an update on NWRFC, BOR, and Corps water supply forecasts (with 5 days QPF). Information on these forecasts is linked to today's agenda on the TMT website:

- Hungry Horse (January-July) – 2450 KAF, 117% of average
(April-August) – 2265 KAF, 117% of average
(May-September) – 1980 KAF, 117% of average
- The Dalles (April-August) – 87 MAF, 100% of average
- Lower Granite (April-July) – 21 MAF, 105% of average
- Libby (April-August) – 6.3 MAF, 107% of average
- Dworshak (April-July) – 2.1 MAF, 88% of average
- Grand Coulee (April-July) – 50 MAF, 99% of average
- Albeni Falls (April - July) – 1.2 MAF, 109% of average

As measured at The Dalles Dam (TDA) the currently April-August water supply volume is average, Baus said. Since the January 8 official WSF at TDA (April - August) the water supply forecast has declined from 100% (87 MAF) down to 96% (84 MAF) of average.

A review of SNOTEL site information shows that snowpack in the Cascades is well below average due to warm temperatures. More abundant snow in the Rocky Mountains and Canada, to date has kept The Dalles water supply forecast closer to normal.

4. Chum Spawning Operation

The current chum operation at Bonneville Dam is a minimum 13' tailwater elevation. Paul Wagner, NOAA, said based on the relatively high current RFC 10-day inflow forecast there is no concern for maintaining the current Bonneville Dam minimum tailwater of 13' for chum. Yesterday (Tuesday, January 20), the Bonneville Dam tailwater ranged between 17-19'. Today (Wednesday, January 21), at 0800 hours the Bonneville Dam tailwater is 19.9' which is well above the current 13.0' minimum chum tailwater elevation, Baus reported. The current RFC inflow forecast for Bonneville predicts 185-195 kcfs inflows over the next 10 days. TMT will revisit chum spawning at its next meeting February 4.

5. Snake River Dredging

Dredging at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater rivers as specified in the Programmatic Sediment Management Plan began on January 12 and will continue around the clock through February 28, Steve Hall, COE Walla Walla, reported. The work started with removal of approximately 2,000 cubic yards of sediment from the downstream approach to the Ice Harbor lock, which took 2 days. To date the contractor, a Tacoma construction company, has dredged about 66,000 cubic yards near the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers, or about 15% of the total to be dredged. A map linked to today's TMT agenda shows the areas already dredged and those that will be.

The dredged material will be deposited at river mile 116 in an effort to create shallow water habitat for chinook salmon and Pacific lamprey. The COE is holding Lower Granite forebay at the higher end of its normal forebay range to facilitate disposal of the dredged material in shallower water. An ongoing request for a higher McNary forebay, influencing Ice Harbor tailwater elevations, will remain in effect until surveying of all dredging at the downstream Ice Harbor lock entrance is complete. Additionally the COE will use survey information to verify that the dredging meets all specifications at Ice Harbor and Lower Granite. Dredging will extend to areas upstream of the Clearwater River where shoaling is a problem.

During dredging, the COE sends boats out daily to monitor water quality and conditions for salmonids in accordance with the PSMP. Water quality data are being collected at several buoys around the clock, and grab samples are being taken to monitor the sediment for contaminants. Dave Statler, Nez Perce Tribe, asked whether conditions for Pacific lamprey are being monitored. Hall said monitoring information may be found in Appendix J of the PSMP that may be found on the following COE NWW website.

<http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/ProgrammaticSedimentManagementPlan.aspx>.

The COE will inform TMT if any problems develop and will notify TMT when the dredging is complete.

6. Operations Review

a. Reservoirs. Libby is at elevation 2410.1' with average inflows of 4.3 kcfs and releases of 4.1 kcfs. Albeni Falls is at elevation 2051.3' with average inflows of 23.1 kcfs and releases of 17.7 kcfs. Dworshak is at elevation 1540.8' with average inflows of 5.5 kcfs and releases of 1.6 kcfs.

Lower Granite average inflows are 42.2 kcfs; McNary average inflows are 193.9 kcfs; and Bonneville average inflows are 203.9 kcfs.

Hungry Horse is at elevation 3543' releasing 6.4 kcfs. Grand Coulee is at elevation 1279.7' in preparation for drum gate maintenance in March.

b. Fish. This is the slowest time of the year for adult passage, Paul Wagner, NOAA, said. The zero nighttime generation trigger was achieved with the LWG fish ladder went out of service. There are no issues regarding chum at present.

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

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

7. Next TMT Meeting

TMT will meet next on February 4 to revisit the water supply forecast, chum spawning, and any other in-season management issues that arise.

Name	Affiliation
Charles Morrill	Washington
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Doug Baus	COE
Lisa Wright	COE
Mary Mellema	BOR
Tony Norris	BPA
Steve Hall	COE
John Heitstuman	COE
Tory Hines	DSC
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Michelle Yuen	COE
Scott Bettin	BPA
Scott English	COE

Phone	
Brian Marotz	Montana
Dave Statler	Nez Perce

Sheri Sears
Russ Kiefer
Tom Lorz
Tom Iverson
Barry Espenson
Greg Lawson

Colville
Idaho
CRITFC/Umatilla
Yakama
CBB
Thompson Reuters