

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

February 4, 2015

DRAFT Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator, Robin Gumpert; 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.

Chum Spawning Operation

Paul Wagner, NOAA, discussed the chum spawning operation, noting that WDFW has been the lead on the ground on this project and they requested maintaining a 13ft tailwater elevation when possible. Charles Morrill, WA, agreed with Paul, noting that Washington requests the operation continue to meet a 13ft tailwater elevation while there is water to support it. Tony Norris, BPA, asked Charles to elaborate on what information was used to determine the 13ft threshold, as this differs from the final survey recommendations regarding the protection of Ives Island. Charles noted that based on the information provided to the staff, there was adequate coverage on the given day of the survey but there was concern over the preciseness of the data long-term. Charles stated that if water is available Washington will request a minimum 13ft tailwater elevation. BPA asked what the minimum elevation recommendation would be if water is not available. Charles speculated (but was not sure) that elevation recommendations would be a gradual ramp down to 12.5ft and 12ft. Doug Baus, COE-NWD, provided additional information on the Bonneville Dam forecast, stating that the tailwater is operating at 18.2ft. He noted that the 10 day forecast indicates inflow will gradually increase from 197kcfs to 292kcfs by February 9th and then back down to 268kcfs by February 13th. Given this, he said the Corps plans to continue implementing the current chum spawning operation (13 foot minimum tailwater) and Charles expressed Washington's appreciation for the Corps work on this project.

ACTION: Per the recommendation to continue the project with a minimum tailwater elevation of 13ft, while water is available, the Corps will implement the operation as requested. TMT will revisit this issue at their next scheduled meeting, on February 18th.

Dworshak Operations

Russ Kiefer, ID, noted that the STP received from the Corps indicated they would be passing inflows at Dworshak. He asked whether this was necessary for flood control elevation. Steve Hall, Walla Walla District Corps, responded that the information in the model was incorrect and the Corps will operate based on water on the ground. The flood control elevation information in the model is roughly 15ft off of the actual elevation and, with water supply forecasts for Dworshak coming in at less than 80% of normal, the flood control elevation for the end of February is around 1,560ft (not 1545' as indicated on the model). Steve assured Russ that the model will be accurate moving forward, and said to contact him directly if a question about the modeling arises in the future.

The next TMT meeting will be a face to face meeting on February 18th at 9:00am.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES

February 4, 2015

Minutes: Pat Vivian

Doug Baus, COE, chaired this TMT conference call facilitated by Robin Gumpert, DS Consulting. Representatives of the COE, BPA, Washington, BOR, Colville, Yakama Tribe, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe, Idaho, Nez Perce Tribe, NOAA, and Montana participated. There was no USFWS or Oregon representation today. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Chum Spawning

The current operation as previously coordinated at TMT calls for a 13' minimum elevation in the Bonneville tailwater for chum redd protection. To make a recommendation going forward, Paul Wagner, NOAA, as chair of the Salmon Managers turned to Washington, which has been providing information on the ground and guidance regarding chum redd protection to the Salmon Managers and the Action Agencies.

Washington requests that the 13' minimum tailwater elevation be maintained at Bonneville for as long as possible, Charles Morrill said. Tony Norris, BPA, questioned the basis for that recommendation, noting that it differs from survey results at Ives Island, and asked for additional information. Morrill explained that Washington field staff agreed the GPS data might be inaccurate, so a minimum of 13' elevation is advisable to ensure the chum redds at Ives Island are inundated. The need for this level of protection was established by spawning activity last fall when Bonneville was operating to a 13' minimum tailwater elevation. Scott Bettin, BPA, asked what Washington's recommendation would be if flows should become insufficient to maintain a 13' minimum during all hours, and Morrill said he would provide specific advice based on an actual situation if one develops. Generally, a ramp down from 13' to 12.5' and then a 12' minimum tailwater elevation would be desirable if the water supply forecast shows inflows are dropping.

The COE will continue to implement the current operation at Bonneville as requested until further notice. Washington thanked the COE for maintaining the current level of protection for chum. Baus showed TMT the latest data for Bonneville Dam, posted in three hyperlinks to this item on today's agenda. Current project tailwater elevation is 18.2'. According to the RFC forecast over the next 10 days, today's inflow forecast is 197 kcfs with a gradual increase over the next 6 days to 292 kcfs on February 9. By February 13, inflows will drop to 268 kcfs according to the forecast.

3. Dworshak Operations

Based on Dworshak STP information he received from the COE, Russ Kiefer, Idaho, asked whether the COE plans on passing inflows at Dworshak, and if so, is that necessary for flood control? No, Steve Hall, COE, replied, the STP was modeled based on an erroneous assumption. The end of February flood control elevation at Dworshak will be 15' higher than was modeled (around 1560' instead of 1545') because the water supply forecast has dwindled to less than 80% of normal at Dworshak. Hall said the modeling error will be corrected and invited any TMT member with future questions about the COE's STP forecast for Dworshak to contact him.

4. Next TMT Meeting

TMT will meet next on February 18 in person to revisit the chum operation.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Tony Norris	BPA
Charles Morrill	Washington
Eric Rothwell	BOR
Scott Bettin	BPA
Doug Baus	COE
Sheri Sears	Colville
Scott Richards	Snohomish PUD
Tom Iverson	Yakama
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Dave Statler	Nez Perce
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Lisa Wright	COE
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Barry Espenson	CBB
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Tory Hines	DSC