

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

February 3, 2016

DRAFT Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator: Charles Wiggins; 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 Operation

Doug Baus, COE-NWD, provided an update on the current chum operation. He noted that as of 0700 hours, Bonneville is operating at a tailwater elevation of 15.4ft, which is above the 12.2ft tailwater minimum. The Corps will continue operating Bonneville with a tailwater minimum of 12.2ft. Current Bonneville inflows are at 150kcfs; the 10 day forecast shows a gradual decrease of inflows down to 115kcfs. The current water supply forecast at The Dalles is in the mid to upper 90% and the official 5 day-QPF forecast for April-August is 86 MAF (98% of average). Joe Skalicky, USFWS, asked if the Action Agencies know when chum emergence will occur. Scott Bettin, BPA, said they do not know precisely when emergence will happen. Charles Morrill, WA, asked if with the recent drafts, was Grand Coulee expected to meet the April 10 refill target, with an 85 % probability, and maintain current chum operations.. Tony Norris, BPA, confirmed that Grand Coulee was drafting to meet this expectation.

→ **ACTION:** The AA's will continue operating Bonneville with a tailwater minimum of 12.2ft. A TMT meeting will be held on February 17th at 9:00am to check in on the Chum operation.

Drum Gate Maintenance

Mary Mellema, BOR, provided an update on the Grand Coulee drum gate maintenance. She noted the official NWRFC February final forecast used to determine end of month flood control elevations would be available on Friday, February 5. Reclamation will make a decision no later than February 12th based on the February final forecast whether to proceed with drum gate maintenance. Paul Wagner, NOAA, asked what factors are considered when deciding whether to perform drum gate maintenance. Mary noted that the decision is based on future conditions, recognizing that the conditions may change after the project has been green lighted. Scott Richards, Snohomish PUD, asked if there was concern over too much water or too little water when deciding whether to do drum gate maintenance. Mary stated that a dropping forecast resulting in higher flood risk elevations would be more of a concern than a high water forecast. Mary also noted that once the decision is made by February 12th, TMT members will be updated via e-mail. Charles asked if NOAA is concerned about the effects of El Nino. Paul noted that the long range forecast still depicts above average temperatures and below average precipitation, which NOAA will continue to monitor.

→ **ACTION:** Reclamation will decide whether to proceed with drum gate maintenance once the February final RFC forecast is released. A decision will be made by February 12th and Mary Mellema will send an e-mail to TMT members with an update. The decision will also be discussed at the next TMT meeting on February 17th.

The next TMT meeting will be a face to face meeting on Wednesday, February 17th, 2016

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING—OFFICIAL MINUTES

February 3, 2016
Minutes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Representatives of Idaho, Washington, Montana, Oregon, USFWS, NOAA, the COE, BOR, BPA, Yakama Tribe and others participated in today's TMT conference call. Doug Baus, COE, chaired the meeting, with facilitation by Charles Wiggins, DS Consulting. This summary is an official record, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Chum Operation

As shown in attachment 2a to today's agenda, the current Bonneville Dam tailwater elevation is 15.4 ft. The Action Agencies continue to operate the project to the 12.2 ft minimum tailwater elevation coordinated at TMT for chum protection.

Current inflows at BON are approximately 150 kcfs. Attachment 2b shows the RFC forecast that indicates inflows are expected to decrease to around 115 kcfs over the next 10 days. The current RFC April-August water supply forecast for The Dalles is 86 maf, or 98% of average as shown in attachment 2c.

Charles Morrill, Washington, asked whether the ongoing draft at Grand Coulee is for power generation or other needs, not chum; the answer was yes, the Action Agencies are operating to meet chum and other purposes. He asked whether the Action Agencies continue to have 85% confidence in meeting the Grand Coulee BiOp upper rule curves with this operation; the answer was also yes.

3. Drum Gate Maintenance Update

The February 1 official RFC water supply forecast will determine Grand Coulee flood control elevations, which will be a contributing factor in determining whether the BOR moves forward with plans to do drum gate maintenance this year, Mary Mellema reported. That forecast should be available by Friday, February 5. The BOR will decide no later than the following Friday, February 12, whether or not to proceed with drum gate maintenance this year. Project staff need to know by mid-February in order to begin setting up the project for the work. The BOR is holding off making the decision for as long as possible so more can be learned about forecasted water supply conditions this year.

Scott Richards, Snohomish PUD, asked whether having too much water would impede drum gate maintenance. A dropping forecast would be a bigger concern because it would raise the flood control elevation, Mellema replied. She will email TMT members no later than February 12 to let them know whether drum gate maintenance

will proceed this year. Further conversation will take place if needed at the next TMT meeting on February 17.

Charles Morrill, Washington, asked whether El Nino is still considered part of the long term water supply forecast. Yes, the long range outlook is for above average temperatures and below average precipitation consistent with the El Nino trend, Paul Wagner, NOAA, replied. However, the area where precipitation is expected to be below average has shrunk to the Montana portion of the Columbia River basin.

Next TMT Meeting

TMT will meet next on February 17.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Charles Morrill	Washington
Brian Marotz	Montana
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon
Joe Skalisky	USFWS
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Doug Baus	COE
Mary Mellema	BOR
Tony Norris	BPA
Scott Bettin	BPA
Joel Fenolio	COE
Lisa Wright	COE
Wayne Jousma	COE
Tom Iverson	Yakama Tribe
Michael Bryant	CBB
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Scott Richards	Snohomish PUD
Julie Ammann	COE
Steve Hall	COE