

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Final minutes for the 27 October 2014 FFDRWG meeting.

The meeting was held in NWP RDP 3rd Floor Meeting Room, Portland OR. In attendance:

Last	First	Agency	Office/Mobile	Email
Baus	Doug	RCC		Douglas.m.baus@usace.army.mil
Bettin	Scott	BPA		swbettin@bpa.gov
Ebner	Laurie	USACE-NWP		Laurie.l.ebner@usace.army.mil
Eppard	Brad	CENWP-PM-E		Matthew.b.eppard@usace.army.mil
Fredricks	Gary	NOAA Fisheries	503-231-6855	Gary.fredricks@noaa.gov
Lorz	Tom	CRITFC		lort@critfc.org
Mackey	Tammy	CENWP-OD-TF	503-961-5733	Tammy.m.mackey@usace.army.mil
Medina	George	USACE-NWP	503-808-4753	George.J.Medina@usace.army.mil
Meyer	Ed	NOAA Fisheries		Ed.meyer@noaa.gov
Rerecich	Jon	CENWP-PM-E	503-808-4779	Jonathan.g.rerecich@usace.army.mil
Royer	Ida	CENWP-OD-B		Ida.m.royer@usace.army.mil
Stevens	Seth	NWP		Seth.t.stevens@usace.army.mil
van Dyke	Erick	ODFW		Erick.s.vandyke@state.or.us
Wills	David	USFWS		David_wills@fws.gov
Wright	Lisa	RCC		Lisa.s.wright@usace.army.mil

Bettin, and Royer called in.

All documents may be found at <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/FFDRWG/FFDRWG.html>

1. Final Actions or recommendations from the 27 October 2014 NWP FFDRWG.

1.1.

2. Action items from 27 October 2014.

2.1. ACTION: Rerecich will follow up with fish numbers needed for the biological testing. He will coordinate with Wills.

2.2. ACTION: Wills will investigate getting the numbers of fish needed and keeping them at the desired size.

2.3. ACTION: Rerecich will update the proposal and send it to SRWG. He will include the timing and size of fish.

3. BON FGE alternatives. FFDRWG gave concurrence to move forward with further investigations in the alternatives but they want the data and details to look at more in-depth. Rerecich went through the history of this project. Fredricks said this project has gone on too long. Ebner said the PDT wants to install plates in B slot, which will be different from A-slot. The biological test should occur in all three slots. Ebner felt there is a good solution for A-slot, B-slot has a different sized plate, and there is a belief there isn't a need for a plate in C-slot. Ebner further explained that there would be a need for the highest, constant Q for testing all three slots. This would fall in the May timeframe, right in the middle of fish passage season. NWP stressed the need to get measurements in all three slots (A, B, and C) under the same flow. Fredricks said he would like to see a biological test in B-slot. Ebner

said she agrees but she wasn't sure we could get enough fish or have enough time to do that many tests this year. Fredricks asked if FY16 implementation is reasonable. Stevens and Ebner said Plans and Specs should be a quick turnaround. The challenge will be laying out a schedule for implementation. The unit will need to be dewatered and modified. Fredricks expects it would take years. Ebner said it won't be quite that bad. Fredricks said the issue isn't the fish side since we have an operation that works, we don't run the units at the upper end, and can continue until all units have been modified. Bettin noted that delay in implementation is a problem for BPA. Ebner said she believes the coordination for implementation will be the hardest part.

- 3.1. Medina asked for concurrence that C-slot will not have a plate, but it will be biologically tested. Fredricks agreed that they may not be needed but said he wants an option for C-slot plates laid out in the DDR to avoid further process delays if they should be needed.
- 3.2. Stevens said for FY15 we are putting a plate in 15 B-slot (A-slot already has a plate); Doing hydraulic testing in A, B, and C; Doing biological testing in A and C slots. VBS porosity plates will be modified for A, B, and C slots.
- 3.3. A-slot plate will remain in place, but will eventually be replaced with stainless steel. B-slot will have a stainless steel plate installed. Rerecich clarified that A and C slots may not be biologically tested at the same time. Bettin asked if the unit will be available with the entire operating range in 2015 when it's not being tested and the answer was yes.
- 3.4. **ACTION:** Rerecich will follow up with fish numbers needed for the biological testing. He will send that out to SRWG. Lorz asked about lamprey testing. Rerecich said there are no plans for lamprey testing, however, any changes to the gateway that benefit salmon, should benefit lamprey.
- 3.5. Baus asked if testing would occur for four weeks. Rerecich said yes, testing will occur during the month of April. Baus asked if the fish or the water is driving the test timing. Wills said in FY14, the test occurred prior to the normal Spring Creek spring releases. If the goal is to have the test period occur between the spring releases, getting little fish will take some additional planning. Getting larger fish may not be as difficult to obtain. Wills said fish may be held but maybe not on the hatchery grounds. Rerecich said it is important to target the high flow for C-slot and the best time to get that would be in mid – late May. Fredricks expressed concern about two different tests with different fish and different flows. Ebner said we can get the hydraulic conditions in April and we can definitely get it in May. Fredricks asked that all of the details be laid out in an updated study plan for SRWG review.
- 3.6. **ACTION:** Wills will investigate getting the numbers of fish needed and keeping them at the desired size.
- 3.7. Wills asked if there will be a table for flow through the slots with the plates installed. Ebner pulled up the baseline conditions for the VBS in the 14A-slot. There is a hot spot and it would be easy enough to correct. Fredricks would agree but doesn't want to see the plate work de-railed. Ebner said the porosity through the VBS will be worked on concurrently as the plate installation. Fredricks asked for a reminder as to where we are with the porosity plates. Ebner said in FY14, the test had solid porosity plates. That appeared to work ok. In FY15, the porosity will be tested in all three slots. Fredricks said he would like to see a design for the VBS porosity plates for FFDRWG review. Bettin asked if the VBS porosity plates increase the cost significantly. Stevens and Ebner said these changes are fairly minor and the Project will help with the work.
- 3.8. Stevens asked if there was a possibility of getting hydraulic testing completed in May. Lorz and Fredricks discussed the potential for this. Bettin asked if June would

be a possibility, when there are larger and fewer fish in the gatewells. The testing schedule would mimic the FY14 schedule. This would result in two hydraulic tests – one in March and one in June. Ebner explained the need to know the hydraulics in B-slot prior to putting fish through the unit. June testing will require about four days of testing. This will be planned for 1 – 4 June to avoid impacts to the Little White Salmon releases in mid-June.

4. BON FGE Review of FFDRWG supplemental EDR.
 - 4.1. Comments are due tomorrow. Fredricks has his comments started. He noted that many of his comments note that this project has taken a very long time and didn't utilize the physical model. Ebner, Medina, and Rerecich challenged that a wee bit saying this was a group effort and everything that is at the Project now was based on a physical model. Rerecich decided, since the Region was being so kind, to give a few extra days for comments. Ebner said she really needs to know if there are substantial comments sooner rather than later. FFDRWG didn't have any comments that might change the course of action. Everyone agreed we have a path forward.
 - 4.2. A-slot plate blocks about 50% of the opening. B-slot will block about 25% of the opening. Ebner noted that the bolt pattern used in the A-slot was recommended for the B-slot so a larger plate could be used if needed.
 - 4.3. Fredricks asked that the proposal be updated and sent out for review. **ACTION:** Rerecich will coordinate with NOAA Pasco and USFWS to update the proposal and send it to SRWG. The proposal will include the timing and size of fish.
5. BON Orifices. Fredricks brought up the orifice project and asked for an update. Medina said there is an ATR review in progress. The ATR is reviewing the EDR and NWP is working on responding to comments from the ATR. Fredricks noted that this project has been in the works for a long time. Rerecich said his workload has been such that he wasn't able to prioritize orifices over FGE. Medina added that he hasn't budgeted for the Orifice PDT. Fredricks asked that this project get back on track so we can resolve it one way or another.