

**Columbia River Regional Forum
SYSTEM CONFIGURATION TEAM
October 16, 2014
Final Minutes**

1. Introduction and Review of Meeting Minutes

Today's SCT meeting was chaired by Bill Hevlin, NOAA Fisheries. Representatives of NOAA, Idaho, COE, BPA, Yakama Tribe, CRITFC/Umatilla and others participated. Copies of previous minutes, documents mentioned, and meeting sign-up sheets are available from Kathy Ceballos at 503-230-5420 or Bill Hevlin at 503-230-5415. Draft and final SCT notes are available on the COE's TMT website under the FPOM link. The draft September 4 SCT minutes will be finalized after today's meeting. Mike Langeslay is in his new role today, representing the COE Division, and Ian Shane is now the Portland District representative at SCT.

2. Follow Up on COE Plan for Lower Granite Ladder and Trap Cooling in FY15

Chris Pinney, COE Walla Walla, gave an update on FY2015 proposed work at Lower Granite Dam to address elevated temperature problems in the adult ladder and trap (line item #18 on the latest CRFM spreadsheet). The Corps figures the underwater installation work will require at least a three-day ladder outage and possibly a second three-day outage. It's possible the contract will call for double-shifts in order to finish the work during the first three days outage.

The first ladder outage is proposed for June 8 to 10, 2015, and the second outage June 15 to 17, if necessary. It was noted that counting at Granite for summer chinook begins June 18. The COE is thinking that the diffuser #14 chimney installation is a higher priority over the extension of the auxiliary pump intakes, and should be accomplished in the first ladder outage. The auxiliary pump intake extensions could be installed in the 2nd outage, if it occurs. The chimney work is considered top priority because it would provide a large volume of cool water directly to diffuser 14, which feeds the trap and mid-ladder.

The 60% design review for the Lower Granite temperature work will go out for comments on October 24, Ryan Laughery, COE, reported. Among many things, the 60% design describes how cool water will be introduced at the ladder exit. PIT tag detectors will be used to monitor adult passage in the ladder and at the exit.

Tom Lorz, Umatilla, urged the COE to continue discussions with the region through FPOM on this plan for a ladder outage during June. There is resistance to shutting down the only adult ladder at Lower Granite for 3 days when summer chinook are passing, coupled with intense concern about the risk of an extended ladder outage during passage season. That risk needs to be weighed against the risk of another year of relying on rental pumps to provide cool water from depth to diffuser 14.

Even a 3-day outage to get the chimney work done would be better than not making any progress over what was done in 2014, Chong said. When asked about possible interference on the powerhouse deck between the ladder outage and work for the Juvenile bypass renovation, Pinney noted that JFF mining work could be occurring near the ladder work at the same time. Also, PIT tag detection installation in the adult ladder will be needed to evaluate fish response to noise and vibration from the JFF work, along with monitoring the adult response to the new cool water introductions, Pinney noted, adding that there is quite a bit of work planned for Lower Granite next year. The chimney work for diffuser #14 is scheduled to be done first. If more than 3 days are needed for that, the ladder would be watered up and restored to service giving delayed adults a chance to pass. The project would then be completed during the short second outage. If it appears that the chimney installation will take longer to install than these two short outages, the project will be deferred until the winter in-water work window.

Lorz asked whether the dive work can be done in March and April. The project will be awarded in mid February 2015, and it will take the contractor a month or two to mobilize at the site, Pinney replied. A lot of fish are passing in April, particularly steelhead that have overwintered in the reservoir. April would be a bad time biologically even if it were possible from a contractual standpoint to start then.

It's important to keep the option open of renting pumps for another year. An issue is whether the O&M budget could absorb another \$1 million for another year of rental pumps. The COE's first priority is operating the trap successfully, Pinney said; the goal is to cool the trap and mid-ladder. Unit priority will be coordinated with the region when there is a definite proposal in place. Tomorrow a memo of coordination (MOC) on Lower Granite will be released to FPOM; SCT members are invited to comment.

3. Update on Lower Granite Juvenile Bypass Renovation Project and New Outfall

The fish slot closure contract for Lower Granite has been awarded, and the work will begin in November, Randy Chong, COE, reported. As units are taken out of service for normal maintenance, the contractor will have access to close the slots in each of those units.

The juvenile facility renovation is expected to be completed by the spring 2017. SCT discussed the schedule for outage of the bypass system to accommodate construction, and members expressed concern about an extended outage during juvenile passage season. Chong said most of the work will occur during the normal juvenile bypass outages in winter months, the only exception is August through November in 2016. These outages reduce the risk that the contractor will not finish the job by spring 2017.

As for the new juvenile bypass outfall, the design work will be completed in 2015, construction in 2016, and the new outfall in service by spring 2017. Completion by spring 2017 would allow the juvenile survival evaluation to begin that spring, in order to

determine whether additional actions are needed to achieve the standard before the 2018 BiOp deadline.

4. Finish Scoring Line Items to Determine CRFM FY15 Funding Priorities

Chong distributed copies of two spreadsheets, one showing individual rankings for each project, the other listing the FY15 projects in prioritized order according to scores given each project. Most of today's discussion focused on the ranking spreadsheet, specifically projects whose status changed since the September SCT meeting. Many of the changes were refined estimates, or resulted from deferring contracts that were originally scheduled for award in FY14. BPA added scores today for line items #2, 3, 6, 9, 11-13, 16-18, and 26. Idaho and the Umatilla Tribe scored item #26. SCT discussed the following items on the ranking spreadsheet:

- 1. Willamette, \$22.16 million – The increase of \$1 million in the estimate (up from \$22.16 million in September) is reimbursement for diverting FY14 funds originally intended for Willamette River restoration to temperature issues at Lower Granite.
- 2. Bonneville 2nd powerhouse fish guidance efficiency, \$1.085 million – The estimate for this line item rose by \$15,000. BPA's score on this line item is 5.
- 3. Avian predation, \$4.5 million – This estimate is up from \$3.2 million, based on new information from the avian predation team. It assumes that action will be taken to address cormorant predation in the estuary. The contract for Don Edwards Island in San Francisco has already been awarded, with \$2.1 million to be split between the BOR and COE Portland and Walla Walla districts. The goal was to award the Don Edwards contract early so the contractor can start work before the snowy plovers move in (snowy plovers arrive before cormorants do). BPA's score on this line item is 5.
- 4. Estuary habitat studies, \$800,000 – This estimate is down from \$855,000. Chong reminded everyone that continued funding of this item is contingent on Congressional approval, the lack of which could result in \$800,000 being available to fund other projects in FY15.
- 5. Ice Harbor performance verification monitoring, \$9.9 million – There was discussion of whether a one- or two-treatment test would suffice. Kiefer asked whether there has been any movement toward testing a single operation at Ice Harbor; Chong said no. The deadline for a decision on the number of treatments is next January; RIOG will decide. Questions about the status of this line item mean that \$9.9 million of the FY15 budget is in question.
- 6. Ice Harbor turbine runner replacement, \$890,000 – The estimate increased from \$455,000 due to an intake study that was deferred from September 2014 to October, thus falling into the FY15 budget. BPA's score on this line item is 5.

- 7. Ice Harbor spillway chute deflector modifications, \$800,000 – The increased estimate is due to altercations with the contractor about the work window. It may be a worst-case estimate.
- 9. John Day north shore ladder entrance lamprey improvements, \$535,000 – BPA's score for this line item is 4.
- 10. Little Goose adjustable spillway weir, \$200,000 – Concerns about the design led to a redesign and delay. The FY15 estimate dropped from \$7 million because most of the work won't be awarded until the first quarter of FY16.
- 11. Little Goose powerhouse evaluation, \$70,000 – BPA's score for this line item is 5.
- 12. Lower Granite spillway PIT tag detection, \$100,000 – The estimate is down from 250,000. BPA's score for this line item is 3.
- 13. Lower Granite performance verification monitoring, \$100,000 – BPA's score for this line item is 4.
- 16. Lower Granite juvenile bypass facility, phase 1B, \$1.5 million – The design estimate increased from \$1 million based on the current AE estimate for the outfall relocation. BPA's score for this line item is 4.
- 17. Lower Granite surface passage addition/modification, \$250,000 – BPA's score for this line item is 4.
- 18. Lower Granite adult ladder temperature interim measures, \$1.4 million – The estimate is based on a 90% design review. The cost has risen from \$600,000, which might not include the cost of compressing all the work into a 3 day outage (see discussion of agenda item 2 above). BPA's score for this line item is 5.
- 18A. Lower Granite post construction evaluation of adult ladder temperature interim measures, \$500,000 – This estimate was increased to include review of similar work done at other ladders.
- 19. Lower Monumental spillway weir boat barrier, \$1.5 million – The original intention was to award this contract at the end of FY14, but that didn't happen so the cost was deferred to FY15. Because it involves risk of human life, this line item is viewed as a necessity. SCT agreed to give it the same scores as in FY14.
- 21. McNary TSW closure leaf seal, \$750,000 – This estimate is down from \$5 million because the COE is only going to issue contracts for building the stilts and deck modifications. Another contract will be needed in future to fund the leaf seal closure.

- 22. McNary performance verification monitoring, \$100,000 – BPA is deferring its score at this time.
- 23. McNary adult fallback passage efficiency, \$975,000 – At the end of FY14 this project was deferred to October. The cost of PNNL’s work will be the same, except it has shifted to FY15.
- 26. Adult salmon migration studies, \$160,000 – This is closeout work on adult fish facilities conducted by the COE Portland district. Ian Shane explained there are two parts to this work. The first is closeout of a telemetry study, and the second is a placeholder for additional modifications to the adult trap at Bonneville, specifically how fish are returned to the ladder. Idaho and the Umatilla Tribe both gave this line item a score of 4.
- 27. Avian island PIT detection, \$525,000 – The estimate for this estuary work rose from \$425,000.
- 28. Turbine passage survival program, \$400 – Ian Shane said the COE plans to re-run the modeling for this program because erroneous curves were used in FY15. CRITFC gave this line item a score of 2 and Idaho deferred scoring it.
- 29. Snake River intake gate closure, reinstate 10 minute criteria, \$220,000 – This estimate is up from \$150,000 to develop a design prototype for modifying the gate closures on the lower Snake River projects.
- 30. Transportation/project COP updates, \$85,000 – Kiefer requested that the transport and project COPs be listed as two separate items because Idaho gives the transport COP a score of 4, but a score of 1 for project-specific COPs. Chong will add a line item 30A to the spreadsheet to accommodate Idaho’s request.
- 33. Inland avian predation/avian management plan, \$800,000 – This estimate increased by \$30,000.
- 34. Kelt management plan support, \$0 – The previous estimate of \$50,000 has been deleted, and scoring of this line item is on hold.
- 35. Direct injury to adults over TSWs and through turbines, \$0 – Scoring of this line item is on hold, and the previous estimate of \$100,000 has been deleted.
- 36. McNary and Snake River adult migration studies, \$325,000 – The estimate was increased from \$50,000 because bids have to be re-solicited. The initial plan was to make an award in FY14 but that didn’t happen.
- 39. The Dalles spill wall repair, \$50,000 – Concerns about erosion at the end of the spill wall led the COE to do periodic monitoring, although it looks like the problem has stabilized.

SCT also reviewed the ranked spreadsheet, which lists projects in order of priority for funding. The anticipated budget is \$71 million for FY15, or \$69 million for the FCRPS and Willamette River and \$2 million for lamprey. All items currently on the spreadsheet add up to \$77.9 million. However, that number could drop by:

- \$9.9 million if performance verification monitoring at Ice Harbor is postponed, or a portion of that if a decision is made to test one treatment.
- \$800,000 if the COE does not receive Congressional authorization to continue funding estuary habitat work in FY15.

If there turns out to be an excess of funds in FY15 as a result of these uncertainties, the COE will look for SCT’s advice on items to move forward for funding, such as the Bonneville performance testing now scheduled for FY16, and possibly more lamprey work than the \$2 million already budgeted for FY15.

5. Upcoming Meetings

- October 27 – Bonneville FGE
- November 20 – Walla Walla FFDRWG
- November 21 – Next SCT meeting in Walla Walla
- December 9-11 – AFEP annual review

6. Next SCT Meeting

The next SCT meeting will be held in Walla Walla on Friday, November 21.

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