

**Columbia River Regional Forum**  
**SYSTEM CONFIGURATION TEAM**  
**April 16, 2015**  
**Final Meeting Notes**

Representatives of NOAA, BPA, CRITFC/Umatilla, NPCC, Nez Perce, Yakama, USFWS, Washington, Idaho, and others participated in today's TMT discussion. Bill Hevlin, NOAA, served as the chair and facilitator. Draft and final SCT notes are available on the COE's TMT website under the FPOM link. For copies of documents discussed in the meeting, contact NOAA at 503-230-5420. The February SCT notes will be finalized in the next few days. SCT did not meet in March.

Today SCT discussed the FY16 spreadsheet, reviewed last week's FPOM request to fund the MCN forebay debris removal craft, and heard a COE update on priority projects for lamprey passage that were discussed in a recent FFDRWG meeting.

***2. Update on Three New Items Added to the CRFM FY15 Spreadsheet***

Randy Chong, COE, said all items on the FY15 spreadsheet have adequate funding and the COE is moving ahead with plans for all. SCT's conversation today focused on three new line items that have been added to the FY15 spreadsheet: JSATs testing from LGR to IHR, PIT tag monitoring in the BON and TDA sluiceways, and a steelhead over-shoot/fallback synthesis report.

**Retrospective analysis of JSATs testing for Lower Granite through Ice Harbor.** Through SRWG, the COE will develop objectives for a retrospective analysis that examines data from 2012-13 juvenile survival performance tests to determine if fish tagged and released upstream at Granite can also be included in the performance study at Ice Harbor.

**PIT tag monitoring in the BON and TDA sluiceways.** NOAA considers the BON sluiceway to be a higher priority for PIT tag development than the TDA sluiceway. The COE will list this on the FY16 spreadsheet as two separate line items, one for each dam.

**Steelhead Over-shoot/fallback synthesis report.** SRWG will soon receive a draft one-pager to review that will detail the proposed objectives for this report, Derek Fryer reported. With funding available in 2015, the COE needs to develop a scope of work soon. An objective of this report will be to summarize all the data available which is relevant to steelhead over-shoot and fallback behavior. It was noted that the work consists of compiling readily available information and will not require more data gathering. This issue will be discussed at further length on an April 21 SRWG conference call.

***3. Review Updated FY16 Spreadsheet***

The FY16 spreadsheet has revised estimates, plus a total capability column to reflect additional funding capability the COE has that's not reflected in the President's budget, Chong

said. The FY16 President's budget calls for \$85.3 million total, with \$58.3 for FCRPS, \$24.5 for Willamette, and \$2.5 for Lamprey projects.

The McNary forebay debris control craft has been a topic of recent FPOM discussion, Chong said, with high interest in adding it to the FY16 FCRPS spreadsheet, and the COE will move on this if money is available. The need to address the forebay debris problem at McNary has been discussed in SCT for at least 10 years, Hevlin mentioned, and is included in previous BiOps. An impromptu SCT tally around the table showed that funding for debris collection in the MCN forebay has extremely strong support, with priority scores of 5, the highest possible. Chong will add the McNary debris control craft to the FY16 spreadsheet.

Discussion turned to individual line items on the FY16 spreadsheet:

- #4. BON adult fish facility improvements, \$100,000 – Chong recently added this item to the FY16 spreadsheet.
- #6. FCRPS estuary habitat studies, \$1.1 million – The COE has an additional \$1.5 million in capability, totaling \$2.6 million in potential funding.
- #7. IHR Performance verification monitoring, \$8.2 million – The goal is to reach consensus on one spill operation for the performance test, rather than continue with the current two operations. Meanwhile, the ogee and deflector modification in spillbay 2 (the RSW bay) is completed and IHR will continue, as in the past, with the two spill operations. Results of a recent balloon tag test gave promising indication that the ogee and deflector modifications are safe for fish passage. Further discussion of a single spill treatment for performance testing, as well as future removal of a concrete support beam on the bottom at 35 ft depth in the tailrace (which was used in construction), will continue at the next Walla Walla FFDRWG meeting.
- #8. IHR turbine runner replacement, CRFM portion, \$500,000 – The COE's preference would be to award the contract by the end of FY16 for FY17 installation. There was agreement this project is a good candidate for accelerated funding if there is money left at the end of FY16. The total cost of turbine runner replacement will depend on decisions yet to be made, but Chong estimated \$8 million for the adjustable blade and another \$8 million for the fixed blade.
- #9. JDA North Shore ladder improvements for AWS/lamprey, \$800,000 – If the COE spends only \$2.5 million on lamprey projects in FY16, it would mean that approximately \$4.8 million needs to be spent in both FY17 and 18 in order to meet the \$50 million 10-year benchmark for lamprey projects. Chong pointed out that having only \$2.5 million in funding authorization for FY16 may limit what the COE will be ready to contract and accomplish in the following years.
- #17. LGR juvenile bypass phase 1b, \$10.4 million – This dollar figure is a preliminary estimate, with final design slated for May and a more reliable estimate this fall. The

actual cost may be less. With the 30% design currently out for review, further discussion will happen at the next Walla Walla FFDRWG meeting.

- #19. LGR adult ladder temperature interim measures, \$150,000; and
- #20. LGR post construction evaluation of adult ladder temperature measures, \$75,000 – Instead of pipe extensions for the forebay pumps to draw cool water from 60 feet depth in the forebay, the COE now planning to install a chimney due to the poor condition of the concrete pump base for attachment of the pipe. Chimney installation is expected in the winter 2015-16 in-water work window. The cool water should help adult passage and aid trapping operations. The next update will be at FPOM.
- #25. MCN spillway weir boat barrier, \$2 million – Design of this item needs to consider the operation of the future forebay debris control craft, Trevor Conder added.
- #27. Adult salmon migration studies in the lower river, \$550,000 – This is a placeholder; the COE does not plan to do additional studies in FY16, Brad Eppard said.
- #30. Snake River intake gate closure, \$250,000 – Chong explained that it has long been assumed that having the gates up increases FGE, but if we found that there is no difference in FGE with the gates up or down, the potential alternatives for meeting the 10-minute gate closure requirement increase. The COE proposes to evaluate the FGE difference with gate position, with an initial FY16 cost estimate at \$250,000, but there may be need of the additional funding capability estimated at \$1 million.
- #36. TDA spillway improvement, \$100,000 – This line item will be removed from the FY16 spreadsheet.

#### ***4. Lamprey Passage Priority Projects (LPPPs) Special FFDRWG Meeting Report***

Sean Tackley, COE, gave an update on the recent FFDRWG discussion of lamprey projects. The COE Portland District has two types of projects currently underway: (1) lamprey passage structure development, and (2) lamprey fishway modification projects.

**Lamprey passage structure development.** The COE is working on upgrading existing lamprey passage structures and building new ramps for lamprey, based on what has been learned about lamprey passage at BON. The program budget is limited so there might not be enough money for all projects. The 30% design report is out for review. Due to budget constraints there is no research underway at the BON north shore ladder. It is timely that the COE work with the tribes on an action plan, considering that after 2017-18 CRFM funding will be limited. Bettin (BPA) emphasized the importance of testing the BON lamprey structure before it's too late to get funding to remove it if it's blocking adult passage.

**Lamprey fishway modification projects.** Dave Statler, NPC, said he hopes an operational fix will work for lamprey. Sean said the goal is for lamprey modifications to be quickly operational, and for the COE to be prepared to implement any fixes found, based on

prior experience. Studies are ongoing. There was discussion of lamprey behavior and passage via the TDA fish ladder. More lamprey approach from the east than the north, Sean said. The north ladder performs best. There was agreement for discussion at the next SCT meeting about how shad passage may conflict with the passage of lamprey.

### ***5. Upcoming FFDWG/SRWG Meetings***

- **April 23** – Next FFDRWG meeting
- **April 30** – Next SRWG meeting; review of one-pager drafts
- **June 4** – SRWG prioritization meeting at TDA

### ***6. Next SCT Meeting***

SCT will meet next in Portland on May 21, when scoring of the FY16 spreadsheet will begin. A placeholder for a June meeting was set for the afternoon of June 24. These notes prepared by technical writer Pat Vivian.

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