

**Columbia River Regional Forum**  
**SYSTEM CONFIGURATION TEAM**  
**Final Meeting Notes**  
**September 17, 2015**

***1. Introduction***

Representatives of NOAA, Oregon, Warm Springs, Nez Perce and Umatilla Tribes, BPA, COE, Idaho, and others participated in today's SCT meeting. Bill Hevlin, NOAA, served as chair and facilitator. Draft and final SCT notes are available on the TMT website under the FPOM link. For copies of documents discussed in the meeting, contact NOAA at 503-230-5420. Comments are due soon on the July meeting minutes; there was no August SCT meeting.

A central focus of today's discussion was the contract for The Dalles alternative water supply backup system, which increased by about \$9 million to \$22.68 million when the COE awarded the contract in late FY15. That means several line items slated for FY15 funding will have to be deferred to FY16. The FY16 budget, which was sufficient until now to cover all items regardless of rank, will be limited to higher scoring items; lower scoring items probably won't get funded. Today SCT representatives scrutinized the budgetary effects of this predicament on individual FY16 line items and revisited their scores accordingly.

***2. TDA AWS Emergency Backup System Cost***

Randy Chong, COE, distributed copies of the latest FY16 spreadsheet and gave budget details. The FY15 cost estimate for the TDA AWS (#37. TDA adult fishway and AWS study, \$22.68 million) rose from \$13 million during the contract award process. Because this line item has been addressed by several BiOps, the COE decided to award the contract in early September despite the added cost.

As a result, Willamette River and FCRPS mitigation in FY16 will absorb the loss in funding. Various other contracting activities had to be put on hold so the COE could award the TDA AWS contract. It was noted the TDA AWS project received high scores during the FY15 ranking process (4.2 last January). Nevertheless, this FY15 large cost increase of the one line item gave some SCT members reason to ask if they could change their FY15 scores. Chong responded that since the contract has been signed it would not make any difference.

***3. FY15 Items Deferred to FY16 Funding***

Rose shading on today's spreadsheet identifies the line items deferred to FY16 because the TDA AWS cost increased in FY15, Chong said. Everything that got cut from the FY15 CRFM budget was deferred to FY16. Many of the deferred expenses are for required ongoing costs of an existing contract.

Erick Van Dyke, Oregon, asked whether the cost deferrals mean some work that was planned for FY16 will get bumped to FY17 because the work can't all be done in one year.

Many of these contracts are on schedule to be awarded in October 2016, only a month later than originally planned, Chong replied.

Chong led a discussion of individual FY16 line item budgets that have changed due to the TDA AWS contract award:

- Willamette River, \$27.1 million – The previous FY16 estimate was \$24.5 million.
- Lamprey, \$3.3 million – There is no change in funding status.
- 6. Estuary Habitat Studies, \$2.8 million – The COE originally intended to award this contract at the end of FY15; now it's delayed a month to October 2016. The purpose is to enter all information from estuary habitat research into an existing database.
- 8. IHR Turbine Runner Replacement Testing, \$1.1 million – The performance assessment and modeling for this \$205,000 task has been bumped to FY16.
- 9. North Shore Ladder Improvements, \$1.1 million – The estimate includes \$535,000 of FY15 expense that was rolled into FY16.
- 16. LGR Juvenile Bypass Facility, phase 1A, \$5.45 million – An extra \$1.5 million of SAEDC cost was deferred to FY16. This is in addition to the \$2.2 million the COE had planned to carry into FY16 because its FY15 budget submission was cut by \$2.2 million.
- 18. LGR Surface Passage Modification, \$500,000 – The cost was going to be split 50-50 between FY15 and FY16. Now it has all been shifted to FY16, increasing the line item estimate by \$250,000.
- 24. MCN Adult Fallback Synthesis, \$380,000 – Data synthesis will be funded in early FY16 instead of FY15.
- 27. Lower River BiOp Performance Testing, \$9.6 million – The cost has gone up by \$2 million for two reasons, deferment of tag downsizing efforts, and tag costs that were omitted from the original estimate.
- 28. Avian Island PIT Detection, \$400,000 – This change is due to a revised estimate, not a funding deferral.
- 34. Inland Avian Predation/Avian Management Plan, \$1.52 million – The contract for Crescent Island dissuasion has been deferred to FY16
- 37. TDA adult fishway and AWS study, \$22.68 million – This estimate could change due to a protest over the award process.
- 39. Snake River Low Flow Operations Modeling, \$125,000 – The estimate was revised based on model development.

Chong also pointed out the line items recently added to the FY16 spreadsheet:

- 26. MCN Log Bronc, \$100,000 – This was added since the last meeting so SCT needs to rank it. It's back on the list because the log bronc obtained as surplus property has been found to need repairs. The COE plans a closer inspection of the boat and will revisit this line item if repairs turn out to be more than \$100,000. Once the boat is operational, upkeep is an O&M expense. BPA complemented the COE for finding a more cost effective way of acquiring the needed equipment rather than purchasing a new one for \$1.2 million.
- 38. Lower River Adult Studies, \$550,000 – This will pay for synthesis of 20 years of adult temperature studies. It's scheduled for in-depth discussion at the next SRWG meeting. A one-pager will be available soon.

#### ***4. Continue FY16 CRFM Spreadsheet Prioritizing Process***

SCT members commented that if the IHR performance test scheduled for FY16 is deferred due to lack of regional agreement on a single treatment, that would free up about \$8.2 million of FY16 money to absorb the deferred costs from FY15 due to TDA AWS cost increase. Work needs to proceed toward regional agreement on a single spill operation for the Ice Harbor performance test. An ERDC trip is planned for November 16 to compare IHR tailrace conditions through a range of spill percentages. Also, a site visit to Ice Harbor is planned for October 15 to discuss adult trap improvements. Due to the importance of this work, SCT agreed to move its next meeting from October 15 to October 14, a Wednesday.

Russ Kiefer, Idaho, suggested adding a separate line item for studies to develop an adult trap design at IHR; Hevlin and Scott Bettin, BPA, agreed that's a good idea but BPA added that they would not be funding the modifications; Chong will investigate whether it's a CRFM item. It was agreed that trapping protocols at IHR should be discussed at FPOM before a passage emergency occurs.

Using a "D" to indicate that scoring of a line item was being deferred for now, SCT members reviewed the scores for individual FY16 line items:

3. B2 Fish Guidance Efficiency, \$3 million – This was well supported with lots of 4s and 5s. Further discussion will take place at FFDRWG. Scores given today were:

- Warm Springs Tribe – Changed score to a 4
- Umatilla Tribe – Gave this a 3, but that will change based on study results
- Oregon – D

4. BON Sluiceway PIT Tag Detection Feasibility, \$100,000 – Chong reiterated this is on the list at SCT's request, but the COE is not planning to move forward with it because development of adult PIT detection at JDA and spillway PIT detection at LWG are higher priorities. Dave

Statler, Nez Perce, commented that the spreadsheet should note the COE rationale on PIT detection capability. Scores for this item today were:

- Oregon – 5

5. Estuary – Avian Predation, \$2.93 million – Scores are deferred and there was no new scoring today.

6. Estuary Habitat Studies, \$2.89 million – Deferring the database development to FY16 added \$150,000 to the cost. There were no new scores today.

7. IHR Performance Verification Monitoring, \$8.2 million – Scores today were:

- Umatilla – 1 until the region decides on an operation for testing
- NOAA – Defer scoring until results of ERDC modeling are available
- Idaho – Defer scoring until a one-treatment operation is proposed

8. IHR Turbine Runner Replacement, \$1.1 million – Scores today were:

- Warm Springs – 4

13. LGS Spillway Weir Boat Barrier, \$150,000 – Chong allotted \$150,000 to this line item to combine its design with the LGS trash boom being designed as part of CRFM O&M this year. Scores for this item were:

- NOAA – 5 as long as the booms don't become cormorant habitat
- Umatilla – 3
- BPA – 5
- COE – 5
- Nez Perce – 2
- Idaho – 3
- Warm Springs – 3
- Oregon – 3

15. LWG Performance Verification Monitoring, \$100,000 – This line item covers preparation for a survival study in FY17. Scores added today were:

- Warm Springs – Changed score to 4
- Oregon – D

18. LWG Surface Passage Modification, \$500,000 – This covers fixing the RSW so it can be stowed in a flood and redeployed afterward.

- Idaho – 1 because the RSW is so old that modifying it could be money wasted
- BPA – Changed score to a 1 for the same reason Idaho gave

- Umatilla – 5 because it’s a risk analysis of alternatives
- NOAA – 5
- Warm Springs – 3

20. LWG Post Construction Evaluation – Adult Ladder, \$645,000 – This is for evaluation of the temperature mitigation measures that will be installed this winter. Scores given today were:

- BPA – Changed score to 2 due to concerns about what actionable information would be gained from this research.
- Umatilla – Changed score to 3
- COE – Changed score from 5 to D until SRWG addresses the issue

Scored previously given were:

- Idaho – 5
- Oregon – D until SRWG addresses the issue
- Nez Perce – 5 based on what could be learned about lamprey behavior
- Yakama – D
- Warm Springs – 4
- NOAA – 5
- USFWS – 5

23. MCN Performance Verification Monitoring, \$150,000 – Scores today were:

- Warm Springs – 4

24. MCN Adult Fallback Synthesis, \$380,000 – Scores for this item are:

- BPA – D
- Umatilla – 4
- Warm springs – 4
- Idaho – 4
- NOAA
- COE – 5
- USFWS – 5
- Oregon – 4
- Nez Perce – 3 assuming the estimate is high

25. MCN Spillway Boat Barrier, \$50,000 – The COE plans to finish this design and keep it on the shelf, even if the project doesn’t move forward any time soon.

26. MCN Log Bronc, \$100,000 – As discussed earlier, this line item covers repairs. Scores given today were:

- NOAA – 5

- BPA – 5
- Umatilla – 5
- COE – 5 as long as the cost of repairs stays at \$100,000
- Warm Springs – 5
- Idaho – 5
- Nez Perce – 5
- Oregon – 5 pending the results of boat inspection

27. Lower River BIOP Performance Testing, \$9.6 million – Scores for this item are all deferred except for the COE, which gave it a 5. NOAA requested that the PIT trawl be scored separately from performance testing and the COE agreed to separate them.

28. Avian Island PIT Detection, \$400,000 – There were no changes in scores today, which are all 5s. Oregon deferred scoring.

29. Turbine Survival Program, \$200,000 – Scoring this item was deferred until the next SCT meeting Oct. 14. In the meantime, Chong will send SCT members the work plan.

30. Snake River Intake Gate Closure, \$850,000 – Some scores for this item, which addresses the 10-minute intake gate closure safety requirement, were revised down based on information recently shared at FFDRWG. Scores today were:

- NOAA – Thinking about revising 3 downward
- Oregon – Changing score to 1
- Nez P – Changing from 2 to 1
- Warm springs – 2

Previous scores were:

- Idaho – 2
- Yakama – D
- Umatilla – 3
- BPA – 5
- COE – 5

31. COP Updates, \$50,000 – Scores given today were:

- Oregon – 1

34. Inland Avian Predation/Avian Management Plan, \$1.62 million – This line item covers \$850,000 in modifications to Crescent Island to dissuade terns from roosting there, and monitoring the Don Edwards site for effects of these actions. The dissuasion work has been bumped to FY16. Nobody changed their score today. Previously assigned scores were:

- Idaho – 4

- Oregon – D
- Warm Springs – 4
- Nez Perce – 4
- Umatilla – 5
- NOAA – 5
- USFWS – 3
- BPA – 5
- COE – 5

36. Lower River Adult Studies, \$550,000 – Scoring was deferred until the October SCT meeting. Chong noted the estimate will change.

37. TDA adult fishway and AWS study, \$22.68 million – As discussed above, this is considered mandatory because the contract is already signed.

38. TDA Sluiceway PIT Tag Detection Feasibility, \$100,000 – Scores today were:

- Oregon – Changed score to 5
- Warm Springs – 5
- Nez Perce – 5
- Idaho – 5
- NOAA – Changed from 4 to 5
- BPA – Changed from 2 to 1
- COE – 1 because COE focus is on spillway PIT at LGR, not sluiceways at TDA or BON

39. Snake River Low Flow Operations Modeling, \$125,000 – There was discussion of upcoming trips to ERDC on Oct. 26 to review Snake River low flow operations and on Nov. 16 to study ICR operations. SCT members’ access to funds for travel to Mississippi is limited and growing increasingly so.

### ***3. Upcoming FFWRG and SRWG Meetings***

- **Oct. 1-2** – Portland FFDWRG and SRWG meet at CRITFC offices in Portland. SRWG topics of discussion include the BON FGE, MCN adult fallback data synthesis, Snake River steelhead issues, and the LGS FGE study
- **Nov. 18** – Walla Walla FFDRWG (tentative date due to potential conflict with Nov. 16 ERDC trip to model IHR operations)
- **Dec. 8-10** – AFEP meeting in Walla Walla

### ***4. Next SCT Meeting***

SCT will meet next on Oct. 14.

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Bill Hevlin	NOAA
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon
Jen Graham	Warm Springs Tribe
Dave Statler	Nez Perce Tribe
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe
Gary Fredricks	NOAA
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