

Columbia River Regional Forum
SYSTEM CONFIGURATION TEAM
Final Meeting Notes
November 19, 2015

1 Introduction

Representatives of NOAA, the COE, NPCC, CRITFC/Umatilla, Idaho, Oregon, BPA and others participated in today's SCT meeting chaired by Bill Hevlin, NOAA. 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 on the October meeting notes are due today. Copies of the final September notes were distributed at the meeting.

2. Progress Review of Updated 2016 Ranking Spreadsheet

Randy Chong, COE, distributed copies of the latest CRFM FY16 spreadsheet in landscape (scoring) and portrait (ranked order) versions. SCT focused first on the landscape version that shows individual scores to date (with D meaning deferred score), adding scores as appropriate.

Chong gave updates on changes in line item funding status since the last SCT meeting, highlighted in rose. If Congress approves \$85.3 million in FCRPS funding per the President's budget, everything listed on the FY16 CRFM spreadsheet can be funded. There might be additional FY16 funding for lamprey mitigation efforts such as tag development, due to deferral of the Ice Harbor performance verification monitoring which will free up approximately \$8 million. However, the COE might not get a final FY16 CRFM budget allocation until next May.

Discussion turned to individual FY16 line items:

7. Ice Harbor Performance Verification Monitoring, \$200,000 – This item was reduced to \$200,000 from the \$8 million estimate due to the evaluation being deferred until there is agreement on the spill operation for a single treatment study. NOAA requested the details of what the \$200,000 will be used for and suggested scrubbing this cost estimate.

11. LGS Adjustable Spillway Weir, \$7 million – The target date for contract award is March 2016, with the weir to be in service by 2017.

13.5. Little Goose Adult Ladder Temperature Study, \$150,000 – This line item was added to the FY16 spreadsheet in response to SCT discussion last month. The COE will use CRFM funds to review operational, temperature and fish passage data to evaluate possible temperature problems at the Goose adult ladder and potential remedies. Russ Kiefer suggested that modeling could help review current operations vs. emergency operations, such as shutting off the surface weir at LGR (as was done last summer), and even shutting off all spill LGR, in an effort to pass more cooler water to the tailrace and LGO. The effects on LGR forebay temperatures, especially at the ladder exit, needs to be part of this modeling effort. Erick Van Dyke, Oregon, said the scope should be widened to study temperature conditions in the Snake and lower Columbia reservoirs.

Oregon would support using some of the funds released by canceling ICR performance testing to scan the entire FCRPS for ways to cool the adult ladders. Jim Ruff, NPCC, said a rapid response monitoring protocol is needed, similar to what's being done in the Klamath River basin. There was general consensus that studying LGS is the first step in a larger process of looking for temperature cooling measures throughout the basin. The cost estimate for this line item is a placeholder; further refinement will occur at the next Walla Walla FFDRWG meeting.

SCT members considered reviving the Water Quality Team (WQT) as part of the Regional Forum to study temperature management throughout the basin. While in years past the WQT focused mainly on TDG values, its current focus would be temperature modeling. There was general consensus that the WQT should be reconvened for this purpose. SCT also considered adding a line item to the spreadsheet for system-wide fish ladder temperature control, but decided to defer any addition to the spreadsheet until study objectives are developed during the SRWG process.

Scores for item 13.5 gave this effort high priority:

- BPA – 5
- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 5
- Idaho – 5
- COE – 5
- Oregon – 5

16. LGR Juvenile Bypass Facility, phase 1A, \$5.45 million and 17. LGR juvenile bypass facility phase 1B, \$10.4 million – The contract is being modified to clarify the roles of two separate contractors for lines 16 and 17.

19. LGR Adult Ladder Temperature Measures, \$150,000 – The current schedule calls for installation January 11-February 24, 2016.

27. Lower River BiOp Performance Testing, \$600,000 – This item is being deferred to FY17 until gateway improvements at B2 FGE are complete. The estimate covers labor and tag costs and could change. While the combined estimate for items 27-29 (all aspects of lower river performance testing, \$2.6 million) is considered accurate, the estimates for individual line items are placeholders. NOAA suggested scrubbing these estimates. Scoring was deferred today.

38. FCRPS Adult Passage Synthesis, \$550,000 – The title has been changed based on SCT discussion at the last meeting. There was general consensus that the previous report on the history of adult passage was a useful reference and should be updated. Scores today were:

- Idaho – 5
- Oregon – 3
- Umatilla – 3
- NOAA – 4
- BPA – D

- COE – 4

39. TDA Adult Fishways and AWS Study, \$1.6 million – The FY16 cost came down from \$3 million because the bid protest means work won't begin until summer 2016.

3. Discussion of FY16 Funding Priorities

SCT reviewed the ranked-order spreadsheet to consider how it reflects the group's priorities. Discussion focused on individual line items:

20. BON Sluiceway PIT Tag Detection Feasibility, \$100,000 – This investigation is on hold due lack of support from the COE. With previous scores of 5 from Idaho, Oregon, Warm Springs Tribe, Umatilla Tribe, NOAA, USFWS and BPA, it was noted this study is highly regarded. NOAA recommended it be added to FFDRWG's next scoping meeting agenda because scientific interest is moving away from performance standards testing and toward system and reach survival estimates for the 2018 BiOp. Better PIT tag detection capability at BON will be needed to obtain system and reach survival estimates. Idaho requested that the COE document its rationale for not following SCT's funding recommendation, which the COE will provide. SCT will revisit this line item at its next meeting January 21.

22. JDA Adult PIT (AMIP), \$600,000 and 14. LGR Spillway PIT Detection, \$150,000 – Testing is underway for these projects. Unfortunately, the COE recently learned that low-frequency radio transmissions from a naval base in California are interfering with PIT tag detection in the Columbia Basin. Recently the Navy began testing a mothballed 1943 system, with the possibility of turning it on next April. During these tests, IT antennas in the Northwest that were not shielded failed to detect fish PIT tags. The COE will provide a full update on the development of spillway PIT detection at the next Walla Walla FFDRWG meeting December 7.

40. MCN and Snake River Adult Migration Studies, \$0 – This project will be deleted from the spreadsheet because further adult studies are on hold until all relevant actions are completed.

4. Upcoming FFDRWG and SRWG Meetings

- **December 3** – Portland FDDRWG
- **December 7** – Walla Walla FFDRWG

5. Next SCT Meeting

The December meeting was canceled; SCT will meet next in Portland on January 21. These notes prepared by technical writer Pat Vivian.

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