

## COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

May 5, 2021

DRAFT Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator: Emily Stranz; Notes: Colby Mills

*The following Facilitator's Summary is intended to capture basic discussion, decisions, and actions, as well as point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the "record" of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members. Official minutes can be found on the TMT website: <http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2021/>.*

### Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes

Official minutes and facilitator's summaries from the April 21 and April 28 meetings will be reviewed at the next TMT meeting.

### Flow Request

Charles Morrill, WA, reported on a flow request from Fish Managers to supplement natural flows for out-migrating juveniles. The request is for a weekly average minimum of 220 kcfs at McNary Dam, with a request for BPA to minimize daily fluctuations as much as possible and avoid decreasing flows on a weekly average base until peak runoff is reached. Tony Norris, BPA, confirmed that BPA expects higher flows in the near future as the hydrograph increases with spring runoff. With the expected runoff from the Snake River, BPA expects they can maintain a minimum weekly flow of 220 kcfs, while also managing for refill of Grand Coulee, FRM guidance, unit availability and streamflow uncertainty. Current forecasts indicate flows near the requested rate, although Tony noted that at this time of year stream flow forecasts are highly uncertain. BPA will make best efforts to implement the requested flow rate and will keep the TMT updated through this week and into next week. Claire McGrath, NOAA, noted that FPAC understands this uncertainty, and clarified that the main intent of the request was to try to use operations from Coulee to avoid significant dips in flow should there be a drop in runoff.

### Updates & Next Meeting Agenda

Doug Baus, Corps, reported that an SOR for Libby Dam will likely be reviewed at the next TMT meeting, and that the FPIP team is meeting today to discuss this year's flow augmentation operation for Kootenai River white sturgeon. He noted that the date might need to be adjusted to coordinate the SOR.

Aaron Marshall, Corps, reported on the MOP adjustment made this week at the Lower Monumental Dam forebay. The MOP range was raised by a half-foot for navigation safety to maintain the minimum tailwater depth at Little Goose. Aaron noted that heavy fluctuations in Lower Snake forebays are complicating operations, especially for fish transport barges. The 2020 season saw similar issues to the current spill season.

Jon Roberts, Corps, reported that Dworshak Dam will continue with minimum discharge as the project refills as quickly and safely as possible. Willow Walker, Corps, will send out the monthly update when forecasts are finalized, and the PAO announcement will come out later this week.

Joel Fenolio, BOR, will provide an update to TMT next week on selective withdrawal maintenance at Hungry Horse Dam. He will also provide an update on project refill; noting that with the new WSF the project will be aiming for 10-feet from full.

**Questions or comments from members of the public:** there were no questions or comments from members of the public.

**The next scheduled TMT meeting is a conference call on May 12, 2021 at 9:00 AM.**

*This summary is respectfully submitted by the DS Consulting Facilitation Team. Suggested edits are welcome and can be sent to Colby at [colby@dsconsult.co](mailto:colby@dsconsult.co).*

## **Columbia River Regional Forum**

### **Technical Management Team DRAFT OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**Wednesday May 5, 2021**

**Minutes: Melissa Haskin, BPA (contractor, FLUX Resources)**

Today's TMT meeting was held via conference call and webinar, chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. See the end of these minutes for a list of attendees.

#### **1. Review of 4/21 & 4/28 Facilitator's Summaries and Official Minutes**

Notes from 4/21 and 4/28 have not yet been posted.

#### **2. Flow Request - Charles Morrill, WA and Tony Norris, BPA**

Charles Morrill, WA, presented on a flow request for McNary Dam, requesting a Monday-Sunday week average minimum of 220 kcfs out of the project, beginning May 10.

The streamflows are expected to increase with the spring runoff. Based on the current forecast, and our planned operations the flow request will likely be met. However, it is spring and things can change quickly, noted Tony Norris, BPA. The forecast does show expected flows near the requested rate, however there is a high level of uncertainty in streamflow forecasts this time of year. Planned operations for the refill of Grand Coulee are currently forecasted to accommodate the flow request, however, the actual flows will depend on unit availability, streamflow, and FRM guidance.

Claire McGrath commented on spring conditions, which have been unusual this year, particularly in regards to low-elevation snowmelt. She noted the intent of this request is to head off any sudden dips in flows should there be an unexpected drop in runoff. Water out of Coulee could help prevent dips and keep flows steady, she noted.

#### **3. Other**

**Upcoming SOR** – The regional FPIP team is meeting today to discuss this year's flow augmentation operation for Kootenai River white sturgeon. This year's SOR will be posted to the May 12 TMT agenda. May 12 will be the coordination date unless the Action Agencies hear otherwise from the group.

**Lower Monumental MOP** – Aaron Marshall, Corps, followed up on an adjustment to MOP at Lower Monumental. The TMT was notified of this change via email last Friday, April 30. The project's MOP range was increased by a half-foot (537.5-539.0 feet) to maintain the minimum tailwater elevation at Little Goose for navigation safety. In 2020, the Lower Monumental MOP range was increased by a half-foot at the beginning of the spring spill season then increased again in mid-July to a 1-foot raised MOP range.

**Dworshak Dam** – is operating on minimums as the projects is refilled as quickly and safely as possible. A monthly update will be available as soon as it is finalized.

**Hungry Horse Selective Withdrawal Maintenance** – Joel Fenolio, Reclamation, will report on maintenance at the next scheduled TMT meeting on May 12.

**Today’s Attendees:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>TMT Representative</b>
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Lisa Wright, Julie Ammann
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris, Scott Bettin
Bureau of Reclamation	Joel Fenolio
NOAA Fisheries	Claire McGrath
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Washington	Charles Morrill
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	Brian Marotz
Nez Perce Tribe	Jay Hesse
Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC	Tom Lorz
Colville Tribe	Sheri Sears
Warm Springs Tribe	Absent
Kootenai Tribe	Absent
Spokane Tribe	Absent

**Other Attendees (non-TMT members):**

Corps – Alexis Mills, Aaron Marshall, Dan Turner, David Bogema

BPA – Melissa Haskin (CONTR, FLUX Resources, Notetaker)

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

Oregon DEQ – Paula Calvert