

Columbia River Regional Forum
SYSTEM CONFIGURATION TEAM MEETING
June 15, 2017
Meeting Notes

1. Introduction

Representatives of the COE, NPCC, NOAA, BPA, Oregon, Warm Springs Tribe, CRITFC and others participated in today's SCT meeting chaired and facilitated by Bill Hevlin, NOAA. Comments on the April 20 meeting notes were due today; the notes will be finalized in the next few days.

The main goal of today's meeting was to review items on the FY 2018 CRFM draft spreadsheet and prepare for scoring. Also on today's agenda was follow-up on (1) justification for improvements to the diversion gate for trapping in the Granite ladder by NOAA and IDFG, and (2) scheduling ERDC modeling for spill pattern development of court-ordered spill. Ian Chane, COE Portland, distributed copies of the horizontal FY 2018 scoring spreadsheet and the vertical ranking spreadsheet.

2. Review the Proposed CRFM Budget for FY 2018

Ian Chane, COE Portland, reported on the President's budget request for CRFM funding in FY 2018. The COE requested slightly more than \$68 million and received a \$70 million allocation consisting of three parts:

- FCRPS: \$45.048 million
- Willamette: \$20.32 million
- Lamprey: \$4.632 million

Chane said the lamprey budget had been reduced and now it's back up. A juvenile lamprey study using a smaller tag recently developed has been cut from the FY 2018 program and since restored. The plan now is to prepare a paper describing where it might be tested first – John Day, McNary, or Snake River dams. Part of the budget increase will cover a juvenile lamprey tag study. Because the fish accords expire in 2018, the COE expects to make a zero budget request for lamprey in 2019. However, approximately \$800,000 of lamprey funding scheduled for 2018 will probably extend into 2019 to cover lamprey-specific construction costs. Cost overruns in 2019 would be a problem, Scott Bettin, BPA, pointed out. There has been no change in the funding level planned for the Willamette River mitigation in 2019.

Tom Lorz, CRITFC, asked whether there are plans for completing the juvenile system survival study now that it's no longer listed on the spreadsheet. Will it be rolled into line item #34. FCRPS Court Ordered Spill Evaluations, \$5.958 million? Chane said the COE plans to set up three separate projects for these evaluations (adult studies, juvenile studies, and modeling efforts). Line item #34 will eventually be broken into three separate line items and will no doubt impact the FY 2018 CRFM budget. Further discussion of court ordered spill work was deferred to specific line items.

3. Review the FY 2018 CRFM Spreadsheet Project List

Ian Chane, COE, distributed copies of the 2018 CRFM spreadsheet and led the discussion. This year's spreadsheet starts with projects in the Columbia estuary and heads upriver, ending with projects in the Walla Walla district. Many of the projects on the FY 2018 spreadsheet are mandatory because the work is already underway. The relatively large number of mandatory items on this spreadsheet is a reflection of the fact that BiOp implementation is nearing completion.

- #3. Estuary habitat studies, \$500,000 – This is closing out in 2018. The cost estimate might go down.
- #4. Estuary Avian Predation – Cormorant Management, \$6.63 million – This will cover completion of terrain modifications at East Sand Island to control the cormorant population. The cost estimate is down from \$10 million. This item is related to #9. Avian Island PIT Detection, \$200,000. In order to get better data collection, a different approach might be needed, such as a bioenergetic approach, Gary Fredricks said. Questions were raised about the cost vs. the risk of not doing this work.
- #5. John Day Avian Wires, \$600,000 – This estimate for SAEDC might increase because not all the work was completed this year, and the scope has since expanded. It's mandatory because the project is already underway.
- #6. The Dalles adult fishways and AWS Study, \$3 million – This covers the second year of construction modifications. Costs are being negotiated so the estimate will change.
- #7. Adult Salmon Migration Studies, \$200,000 – Initially this was a placeholder for spill evaluations, but SCT decided to create a new line item for court-ordered spill work. The \$200,000 will be shifted into spill studies under a new line item, and the cost will probably increase.
- #8. Lower River BiOp Performance Testing, \$1.6 million – This is for the PIT trawl, the usual cost every year to the CRFM budget.
- #9. Avian Island PIT Detection, \$200,000 – There will be more discussion of how to move forward on this in 2018. See line item #4 above.
- #10. Turbine Survival Program, \$250,000 – This covers closeout costs for the CRFM program. After 2018, this item will shift to the O&M budget.
- #11. NWP Program Coordination, \$1 million – This important item pays for work behind the scenes that keeps other programs going.

- #12. McNary Bird Cannon Deficiency/Avian Wire Design Feasibility Report, \$750,000 – This will cover initiation of a contract to evaluate the bird cannon and prepare a feasibility report.
- #13. McNary TSW Leaf Closure, \$2.5 million – This involves contract work. The estimate may change based on whether leaves need to be purchased. There will be a follow-up report at the next SCT meeting on what the \$2.5 million will cover.
- #14. Ice Harbor Turbine Passage Survival, \$215,000 – This closeout work is mandatory. It doesn't include post-construction evaluation testing, just costs for design, installation, and a biological evaluation. A note needs to be added to the remarks on the spreadsheet that this covers more than closeout work.
- #15. Lower Monumental Outfall Primary Bypass Expansion, \$500,000 – An expansion joint on the main outfall pipe at LMN has been creeping downstream, a design deficiency that is becoming increasingly difficult to manage. Photos are available on the FPOM website.
- #16. Little Goose Spillway Boat Barrier, \$175,000 – This closeout cost is mandatory. Boat barriers tend to collect debris, which has been a significant problem this year. This could increase the cost.
- #17 Little Goose Adult Ladder Temperature Mitigation, \$700,000 – This design/built contract has been awarded, and the contractor is just beginning the design phase. This line item could involve a mandatory evaluation in FY 2018. Existing information from adult PIT tags at Lower Granite could be used if money is tight. There was agreement to hold off on designating this item as mandatory until more is known.
- #18. Little Goose Spillway Weir, \$150,000 – This covers closeout costs.
- #19. Lower Granite Spillway PIT Detection, \$650,000 – This covers closeout costs for an installation in 2018-19.
- #20. Lower Granite Spillway PIT Detection Post Construction Monitoring, \$650,000 – This is a placeholder depending on what other studies are happening.
- #23. Lower Granite Juvenile Bypass Facility, \$100,000 – This is for follow-on work. The COE will inform SCT soon if there will be any cost overruns.
- #24. Surface Passage Modifications at Lower Granite, \$2 million – These modifications would allow the Lower Granite RSW to be sunk and raised again in the event of very high flows (300 kcfs). Based on the expense of modifying the RSW, however, it might be more cost-effective to build a TSW or weir or modify the RSW being removed from Little Goose. The COE is about to award a design/build contract to modify the RSW. However, BPA does not support the use of CRFM funds for this item. Hevlin suggested a presentation on this issue at the July SCT meeting, but that would be too late to influence

the contract award. Hevlin recalled that one advantage over a simple crest weir is that the RSW has the extension ramp, which extends surface attraction further out into the forebay. SCT pondered whether this investment is worthwhile, given the low likelihood of 300 kcfs. Even this year's inflows weren't that high.

- #25. Lower Granite Spillway Boat Barrier, \$100,000 – This closeout work is mandatory.
- #26. Lower Granite Performance Verification Monitoring, \$150,000 – This closeout work is mandatory. The estimate assumes the survival study will move forward in 2018, for which funding was allocated in the 2017 CRFM budget. This line item was a recent topic of discussion at FFDRWG.
- #27. Lower Monumental and Lower Granite SOG and PROG, \$1.6 million – This covers the FGE evaluation at Lower Monumental. It was recently discussed at SRWG. Derek Fryer said he will check on the accuracy of the estimate. It would drop considerably if only Lower Monumental is studied.
- #28 System Snake River Gate Closure, \$25,000 – This mandatory closeout work includes an evaluation of alternatives.
- #29. Snake River Adult Sockeye Passage Initiatives (placeholder), \$800,000 – This placeholder might need scope refinement. FFDRWG has held meetings on temperature modeling in the Snake, and the COE is working with NOAA on the feasibility of siting a trap and haul facility at Ice Harbor. There was also talk of cooling the adult ladders at Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor, as has been done at Lower Granite and Little Goose. SCT will revisit this topic at its July meeting.
- #30. Inland Avian Predation, \$200,000 – This covers the closeout costs of tern management at Lake Lenore in San Francisco. Gary Fredricks wanted to know whether it's closeout work or ending involvement in the project. Ian Chane will follow up with more details.
- #31. FCRPS BiOp NEPA EIS Documentation, \$10.2 million – The list of alternatives to be reviewed in the EIS is still being developed. Funding comes from several sources, not just CRFM. This estimate only covers the COE contribution. As much as possible will be done in-house, with the exception of modeling support. Ian Chane will keep SCT updated on this. Amy Gibbons of the Portland district office is the project manager.
- #32. Fall Chinook System Survival Study, \$100,000 – The estimate covers closeout costs and internal labor. The COE is collaborating with the Nez Perce on this study. SCT agreed the work is mandatory.
- #33. NWW FCRPS Program Coordination/COP Updates, \$910,000 – Both the Portland and Walla Walla district offices are working on this program.

- #34. FCRPS Court Ordered Spill Evaluations, \$5.958 million – This line item has been divided into three separate projects: juvenile evaluation, adult evaluation, and ERDC spill pattern modeling.

Chane noted this spreadsheet only covers items in the President’s budget and may be lacking items that were raised last year. SCT members identified several items discussed last year that need to be added to the FY 2018 spreadsheet: turbine PIT detection, Lower Granite ladder improvements, the Lower Granite diverter gate alternatives study, and alternative PIT detection routes.

4. Begin Scoring CRFM Spreadsheet Line Items for FY 2018 Prioritizing

Given that several items need to be added to the FY 2018 CRFM spreadsheet, SCT held off on ranking individual line items until the next meeting July 20. Chane said the COE intends to provide one-pagers for each item to facilitate the scoring exercise, hopefully in time for the July 20 SCT meeting.

5. Update on Development of a Justification Paper for the trap diversion gate at Lower Granite

Trevor Conder gave an update on the justification paper he and Russ Kiefer are co-authoring for the diverter gate alternatives study they’ve identified as a candidate for ranking on the FY2018 CRFM spreadsheet. Their goal is to send the paper to SCT members before the July SCT meeting.

6. ERDC Physical Hydraulic Modeling Schedules for Spill Pattern Work

In the coming weeks the COE will be working on invitational travel to support agency participation in spill pattern modeling work at ERDC. Ian Chane will email information to SCT members and confirm the dates of modeling trips to ERDC in Jackson, Miss.

Tentative travel dates are:

- June 25-30 – Lower Granite and Ice Harbor
- July 17-21 – COE preparation of the models for Bonneville and The Dalles
- July 24-28 – McNary (with follow-up on September 18-22 if needed)
- July 31- August 4 – Little Goose
- September 18-22 – Bonneville, The Dalles, and Lower Monumental all-agency trip

7. Next SCT Meeting

SCT will meet next on July 20. These notes prepared by technical writer Pat Vivian.

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