

Columbia River Regional Forum
SYSTEM CONFIGURATION TEAM
Meeting Notes
September 7, 2017

1. Introduction

Representatives of NOAA, Washington, Umatilla, NPCC, BPA, Idaho, Oregon and others participated in today's SCT meeting chaired by Bill Hevlin, NOAA.

The agenda for today's meeting listed several questions raised at the last SCT meeting to be addressed as SCT combed through line items on the FY 2018 CRFM draft spreadsheet:

1. An update from SRWG and the COE is needed on adult and juvenile evaluations during spill to gas cap operations (line #36).
2. What is included in the turbine survival program (line #16)?
3. What will the capability for BON/TDA/JDA forebay temperature monitoring be in FY18 (line #12)?
4. How will the Little Goose adult ladder temperature mitigation be evaluated (line #19)?
5. What are the combined estimated costs of construction, monitoring, and post construction evaluation of Lower Granite spillway PIT detection (Lines #21 and #22)?
6. A FFDRWG report is needed to clarify the COE's plan for Lower Granite surface passage modifications (line #26).
7. A progress report from SRWG is needed on the Lower Granite juvenile performance and bypass post construction evaluations.
8. Cost estimates for the Lower Monumental and Lower Granite SOG and PROG are needed (line #29).
9. The scope of smolt susceptibility to avian predation needs to be clarified (line #37).

Ian Chane, COE, said work plans for FY18 projects haven't been distributed yet because of budget shifts under way. He will revise the work plans accordingly and email them to SCT members as soon as they are available.

The draft July SCT notes were reviewed and two sentences re: avian predation were moved from the description of line item #38 to #37. Hevlin will finalize the July notes and send them out soon.

2. Review and Score FY 2018 CRFM Spreadsheet

Chane distributed copies of the latest spreadsheet and asked SCT to re-score all the items in response to big CRFM budget changes in FY 2017. Namely, cost overruns on three projects – The Dalles AWS (\$6 million), Lower Granite Juvenile Bypass Facility (\$4.5 million), and Sheepley Island reconstruction (\$3.5 million).

As a result, some projects that were originally in the FY 2018 budget of \$70 million were deferred to FY19, and the FY19 budget will be revised accordingly. Also as a result, the FY18 budget for the Willamette lost \$4.1 million, dropping from \$20 million to \$15.9 million.

Chane said he would highlight the changes as SCT combed through the updated FY 2018 spreadsheet. The cost overruns mean that budgeting ahead, a strategy the COE uses to jump start project funding the prior year, wouldn't work for FY 2017, Hevlin pointed out. Any money budgeted for FY17 would actually have to be used on FY17 projects.

Chane asked SCT members to review their scores from the last meeting and make any needed adjustments in light of the new cost estimates.

#3. Estuary Habitat Studies, \$800,000 – This line item is mandatory. The estimate went up by \$300,000 from \$500,000 initially.

#4. Cormorant Management and Monitoring, \$3.5 million – This covers cormorant depredation work. The estimate was reduced from \$6.5 million. Scores for this item are:

- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 5
- COE – 5
- BPA – 4
- Idaho – 3
- Warm Springs – Defer
- Oregon – Defer (due to questions about where and how many cormorants are taken)

#5. JDA Avian Wires, \$1.3 million – This item is mandatory. Money that was budgeted for FY 2017 was deferred to the FY 2018 budget. The project is on schedule.

#6. JDA PIT, \$80,000 – This item is mandatory.

#7. The Dalles Adult Fish ways and AWS Study (SAEDC), \$5 million – The cost estimate for this mandatory work is up from \$3.5 million.

#8. Adult Migration Studies, \$0 – The \$200,000 previously listed under this line item has been shifted to line 36, Court Ordered Spill Evaluations. At this point, all related funds are listed under #36. SCT's scores from the last meeting were all 5's (Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Umatilla, NOAA, BPA and the COE). In future the COE will list the cost of biological studies separately under line item #42, which currently has a zero budget in FY18.

#9. Lower River Performance Testing, \$1.6 million – The name of this project needs to be changed to reflect that it's supporting the PIT trawl and tags needed to provide reach survival estimates for juveniles. Scores for this line item are:

- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 5

- Idaho – 4
- COE – 5
- Umatilla – 3 (down from 4)
- Warm Springs – Defer
- Oregon – 3
- Washington – 5

#10. Avian Island PIT Detection, \$200,000 – Scores for this line item are:

- NOAA – 5
- COE – 4
- BPA – 4
- Umatilla – 4
- Idaho – 4
- Washington – 4
- Oregon – 3 (might change)

#11. Turbine Survival Program, \$250,000 – The PIT tag report will be revised to include John Day data and finish the ERDC modeling work regarding the BON 2nd powerhouse, Chane reported. Gary Fredricks added that the Bonneville report should be done this year, followed by The Dalles report next year. The COE is looking at ways to get sufficient data to alter the McNary operation without losing fish, Marvin Shutters said.

#12. BON/JDA/TDA Forebay Temperature Monitoring, \$50,000 – Chane distributed copies of the scope of work on this project at the John Day south fish ladder, The Dalles east fish ladder, and Bonneville/Washington shore at Bradford Island. Temperatures will be monitored at 1 ft, 5, 10, 20, 40, and 60 ft from the surface. There will be two years of monitoring in FY18-19 followed by a closeout report. FY17 funding was spent on equipment. Scores for this item are:

- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 4
- Washington – 4
- BPA – 4
- Idaho – 4
- COE – 4
- Oregon – 5

#14. MCN Bird Cannon Deficiency Correction, \$750,000 – There was agreement to change the title to a “bird shower.” Shutters said the point of this is to deter birds from preying at the outfall, and the bird sprinkler has never worked properly since the outfall was built. Scores are:

- NOAA – 4
- BPA – 4
- COE – 4
- Idaho – 4 (up from 3)

- Umatilla – 4 (up from 3 due to FFDRWG design review)
- Washington – 4
- Oregon – 3

#15. McNary TSW Leaf Closure, \$0 – The bulk of the work is shifting into FY19. Marvin Shutters said \$200,000 will be allocated for design in FY18. Scores for this item today were:

- Umatilla – 2
- NOAA – 3
- BPA – 5
- COE – 2
- Washington – 2
- Idaho – 2
- Oregon – 1

#16. Ice Harbor Turbine Evaluation, \$350,000 – This line item is mandatory because it's oversight and closeout work.

#17. Lower Monumental Outfall Bypass Deficiency Correction, \$500,000 – This line item is mandatory.

#18. Little Goose Spillway Weir Boat Barrier, \$77,000 – This line item is mandatory.

#19. LGS Adult Ladder Temperature Mitigation, \$900,000 – This covers temperature and adult behavior monitoring to determine the benefit of pumping cool water to the top of the ladder when there's a temperature differential. The cost estimate will probably come down. The group considered whether it's mandatory and decided to score it:

- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 5 (Link this to the adult behavior evaluation for gas cap spill)
- COE – 5
- BPA – 4
- Washington – 5 (if linked as Umatilla suggested)

After further discussion, SCT decided to apply the above scores to line #46. LGS Adult Ladder Temperature Post Construction Monitoring, \$800,000 and to designate line #19 as mandatory. Further discussion of line #46 yielded the following scores:

- Idaho – 3
- Washington – Defer
- Oregon – Defer
- BPA – Defer
- Umatilla – 5
- NOAA – 5
- COE – 4

SCT will discuss this further at its next meeting, with possible input from SRWG. It was noted that line items #42, #19, and #46 are all related.

#22. LGR Spillway PIT Tag Detection Post Construction Monitoring, \$500,000 – This line item covers post construction evaluation. Shutters said it's a low priority in FY18 but relatively high in FY19. Russ Kiefer didn't want to rank it because we need to make sure the system isn't just detecting fish that pass close to the ogee and may have higher injury rates. There was agreement that this is mandatory.

#26. LGR Surface Passage Modifications [JBS], \$200,000 – At the last SCT meeting, it was noted that FFDRWG needs to clarify the COE's plan for this line item. Since then, this project was shifted into FY19 for funding. In the past SCT has questioned whether the ability to sink and raise the spillway weir at Granite is worth \$2 million. The scope of the project was refined to ensure that the weir can be reliably sunk and then raised in a timely fashion.

Before FY17 ends, the COE intends to award a \$500,000 contract for 30% design, which will yield a more refined estimate of final project cost. The design build contract will be awarded in FY19 instead of FY18.

Shutters will review the \$200,000 estimate in FY18 for accuracy. SCT agreed to score this on the condition that their scores will change if the estimate later exceeds \$200,000. Scores were:

- Umatilla – 4
- NOAA – 3
- BPA – 1
- COE – 4
- Washington – 4
- Idaho – 4
- Oregon – 1

#28. Lower Granite Performance Verification Monitoring, \$2 million – Marvin Shutters said that the purchase of transmitters and the post construction evaluation, which includes survival and injury rate, as well as travel timing through the new bypass, will be funded in 2018. The funding previously allocated for this evaluation in FY17 was reduced due to the higher costs of other items. SCT decided part of this is mandatory because it's a post construction evaluation, so they didn't score it although concerns were raised about the cost. They decided to split the project into two separate line items, 28a. Post Construction Monitoring, which is mandatory, and 28b. LGR Performance Juvenile Survival Study, which needs SRWG development. Scoring was deferred until the project scope was better defined.

#29. LMN and LGR Gate Closure SOG and PROG, \$35,000 – The partial gate blockages for higher FGE were determined to be a safety hazard due to the extra time it took for closing off the turbine units. Recent comparison studies did not see an FGE advantage of the partially blocked gates. Because much of the work is already obligated under FY17 CRFM funds, the \$35,000 in FY18 is for contract oversight and review. SCT agreed this is mandatory.

31. Snake River Adult Sockeye Passage (placeholder), \$300,000 – This line item covers temperature modeling of alternative operations at Lower Granite and Little Goose, based on the findings of NOAA’s 2015 Snake River sockeye mortality after action report. The cost estimate was revised down from \$800,000 and could change again. Scores are:

- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 5
- BPA – 4
- Idaho – 5
- COE – 5 (might change)
- Washington – 5
- Oregon – 5 (might change)

#34. Snake River Fall Chinook System Survival Study, \$35,000 – This line item is mandatory.

#35.FCRPS Program Coordination and COP Updates, \$920,000 – This line item is mandatory.

#36. Court Ordered Spill Evaluation, \$6,148 million – This line item is mandatory. Previous SCT scores for this were all 5s.

#37. Smolt Susceptibility to Avian Predation, \$0 – This is for assessment of the compensation needed for avian predation below BON as required under the next BiOp. This kind of work has been done before and the methodology is not new. It could be deferred if necessary for a year. SRWG will follow up. SCT decided to defer ranking until more is known.

#38. Evaluate Turbine Blade Blocking Alternatives Feasibility, \$0 – Scores are:

- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 5
- Idaho – 4
- COE – Defer
- Umatilla – 3 (might change)
- Oregon – 5
- Washington – 4

#39. The Dalles Sluiceway PIT Tag Detection Feasibility (placeholder), \$0 – Scores are:

- NOAA – 4 (up from 3)
- BPA – 1
- Idaho – 5
- Umatilla – 4
- Oregon – 5
- Washington – 4
- COE – 1

#40. Sheepy Island SEADC, \$680,000 – This is mandatory.

#41. Spillway and Turbine PIT Tag Detection Feasibility, \$0 – Scores are:

- BPA – 1
- NOAA – 4
- Idaho – 5
- COE – 1
- Umatilla – 3
- Oregon – 5
- Washington – 4

#42. Adult/Juvenile Spill to Gas Cap Studies, \$0 – SCT agreed to assign this line item the same scores given #36 above, all 5s.

#43. BON 2nd Powerhouse FGE, \$180,000 – This closeout work is mandatory.

#44. BON Floating Orifice Gates Bulkheads, \$950,000 – The estimate has been revised. SCT agreed this is mandatory.

#45. Avian Predation Monitoring, \$630,000 – This covers the last year of avian predation monitoring, which is mandatory.

#46. LGS Adult Ladder Temperature Post Construction Monitoring, \$800,000 – This item will be discussed further at the next SCT meeting.

#47. LGR Adult Ladder Temperature Post Construction Monitoring, \$100,000 – This appears to be mandatory because it covers post construction monitoring and closeout work. The scope of work might be refined. SCT deferred scoring until the next meeting.

#48. System AMIP, \$100,000 – This covers adaptive management planning. The actions have been considered mandatory in the past, such as an annual BiOp status implementation plan. There was agreement this is mandatory.

#49. BON 1 Sluiceway PIT, \$1 – Scores today were all 5's:

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

Regarding the Lower Granite trap, which is not on the FY18 spreadsheet, Russ Kiefer said past COE policy has been that the trap is a research facility and is not mandated by the BiOp, therefore it's not eligible for CRFM funding. Idaho has drafted a letter spotlighting three reasons why the trap should be funded by CRFM, including that it's the current location of Snake River emergency sockeye trap and haul operations. The COE will follow up on this.

3. Future FDRWG and SRWG Meeting Dates

- October 5 – Portland FFDRWG
- November 28-29 – AFEF review and Walla Walla FFDRWG

4. Next SCT Meeting

SCT will meet next on October 19. The September 21 SCT meeting was canceled. These meeting notes prepared by technical writer Pat Vivian.

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