

Columbia River Regional Forum
SYSTEM CONFIGURATION TEAM MEETING
Meeting Notes for October 19, 2017

1. Introduction

Representatives of NOAA, the COE, BPA, Washington, Umatilla Tribe and others participated in today's SCT meeting chaired by Bill Hevlin, NOAA Fisheries. Comments on the draft notes for September 7 are due and the notes will be finalized.

Sean Tackley, COE, said revised one-page project descriptions are available for items being ranked on the FY2018 CRFM spreadsheet. The goal of the one-pagers is to inform and facilitate the ranking process.

2. Review Items Listed on Today's Agenda for Follow Up

SCT covered several topics that were listed for further discussion on today's agenda:

Planning for adult and juvenile spill to gas cap studies. This relates to Line 42. Adult/Juvenile Gas Cap Studies, \$0 which will be the main focus of the SRWG meeting this afternoon after SCT. Chane noted that funding will shift between Line 42 and Line 36. FCRPS Court Ordered Spill Evaluations, \$6.148 million once the costs are clearer. Biological studies will be funded separately under Line 42. Construction of a John Day model and related modeling work will be funded under Line 36.

LGS adult ladder temperature mitigation. This involves actual construction, electrical work, and possible evaluation, all funded under Line 19. LGS Adult Ladder Temperature Mitigation, \$600,000, as well as Line 46. LGS Adult Ladder Temperature Post Construction Monitoring, \$800,000. There was interest in adding a discussion of ladder temperature monitoring to the SRWG agenda this afternoon.

Lower Granite surface passage modification. The cost estimate of design support for Line 26. LGR Surface Passage Modification, \$200,000 has not changed since SCT last met, Marvin Shuttles, COE, reported. In addition, there will be a \$300,000 contract for 30% design development in the next year. A decision to go forward with repairs will be discussed in SCT prior to moving forward with additional funds for the repairs. The goal of the contract is to allow the LGR spillway weir to be fully sunk in a flood without limiting discharges. Structurally, the weir is in good condition and could last for years. The tradeoff involved is the very low likelihood of having to sink it. A major concern is whether the bay could return to service quickly enough to avoid impeding fish passage.

Lower Granite juvenile performance verification monitoring study and post construction evaluation of new juvenile bypass system. The scope of these two items will be discussed in detail at SRWG this afternoon. There will be a progress report and a one-pager that addresses, among other things, the effects of the new bypass on subyearlings.

3. Review Updates to FY 2018 CRFM Spreadsheet and Continue Scoring

Ian Chane, COE, said the Walla Walla office has hired a CRFM program manager, Margie McGill. Chane will continue to produce the CRFM spreadsheets. The November spreadsheet scoring exercise will be a significant one because November is when the COE typically locks in funding for the coming fiscal year.

Chane reported on the status of FY 2018 work plan development. He is in the process of updating budget estimates using numbers from the President's FY 2018 budget. He will send the work plans to SCT in advance of the November meeting.

Chane then walked through changes made to the FY 2018 CRFM spreadsheet since the September SCT meeting:

- Line 8. Lower River PIT Trawl, \$1.6 million – The title was changed from “lower river survival study” based on previous SCT discussion.
- Line 15. McNary TSW Permanence, \$200,000 – Mandatory. The project title has been changed and \$200,000 entered as a placeholder for FY 2018, with the expectation that a contract will be signed in FY 2019. The expense next year will grow.
- Line 19. LGS Adult Ladder Temperature Mitigation, \$600,000 – To offset the impacts of the McNary TSW project, the estimate for this line item went down from \$800,000 to \$600,000. It covers the cost of construction (but not monitoring) and includes installation of a new power supply independent of double testing. Work on the power supply will begin this winter.
- Line 49. BON First Powerhouse Sluiceway PIT Detection, \$100,000 – The cost estimate was added since SCT last met.

SCT went through the spreadsheet looking for opportunities to add new scores from members. Scoring on several items was deferred because stakeholders were not present.

- Line 28b. LGR Performance Verification Monitoring, Juvenile Study, \$0 – SCT agreed that scoring this item should wait until the project scope is better defined. SCT also agreed this line item is mandatory. The project scope will depend on the 2019 BiOp. Project priorities are on the SRWG agenda for discussion this afternoon. Marvin Shuttles said this has already been funded except for replacement of damaged transmitters, which would be difficult and costly.
- Line 37. Smolt Susceptibility to Avian Predation Post BON, \$0 – This is a placeholder. Previously SCT deferred scoring of this line item until the direction of smolt studies and performance verification monitoring is better defined.

- Line 38. Evaluate Turbine Blade Blocking Alternatives, \$0 – Scoring was deferred because this will be funded by the BPA large cap “2406” program, not CRFM.
- Line 46. LGS Adult Ladder Temperature Post Construction Monitoring, \$800,000 – New scores today were: Washington – 4; BPA – 4.
- Line 49. BON 1st Powerhouse Sluiceway PIT Detection, \$100,000 – This project has all 5’s to date, but Chane recommended that SCT re-score it at the November meeting if the budget changes are significant.

Other Topics of SCT Concern

In general, Chane recommended that at the November meeting, SCT consider re-scoring any item with substantial **budget changes**. The November meeting will be critical because it will be clear by then whether all projects on the spreadsheet can be funded based on the President’s FY 2018 CRFM budget. The COE assumes all items on the spreadsheet will be funded and is moving forward with everything on the list, but that could change.

Discussion turned to **spill to the gas cap studies at BON**. This could include bolstering PIT detection in a different location than the B1 sluiceway. The COE’s concern is that the scope could get out of hand in terms of investigating alternatives. The B1 sluiceway and the corner collector are two options for adding PIT detection antennas that appear the most likely to increase the validity of lower river survival estimates.

A quarterly meeting of the **tribal lamprey program** this week raised the question of doing a juvenile lamprey study in FY 2018. The tribes are prioritizing spending the last of the lamprey settlement funds. Strong interest has been expressed in moving forward with the juvenile study, even if it means pulling back on other work. The 1-2 year pilot would track about 500 juvenile lamprey at the macrophthalmia stage using acoustic telemetry tags about 2-3 millimeters wide that were developed specifically for the purpose.

FPOM coordinated early **construction at TDA** and is doing vibration monitoring, with three noise exceedances the first night of monitoring, as agreed to earlier. This vibration baseline was set at a level that juvenile salmon might detect or avoid, as a startle response can endanger fish. After the second night of construction there were no exceedances. If there is a third night of no exceedances, spill will cease tomorrow morning. Right now, The Dalles should be spilling 15 kcfs out of three bays.

7. Updates from FDRWG and SRWG

The SRWG meeting this afternoon will focus on gas cap spill studies, as well as potential early removal of the fish screens at McNary. There will be a scoring discussion of the hydro acoustics study of tradeoffs between upstream and downstream juvenile fish stocks. Some will benefit from gas cap spill while others will suffer adverse effects. An evaluation plan is needed for all stocks. Added funding for model construction is offsetting some of the CRFM costs in FY 2018, Chane said. Perhaps this issue will be better defined by the next SCT meeting.

Upcoming regional meeting dates are as follows:

- November 28-29 – AFEP Annual Review in Walla Walla
- November 30 – Walla Walla FFDRWG (with possible SRWG meeting afterward)
- December 7 – Portland district FFDRWG (tentative)

Next SCT Meeting

SCT will meet next on November 16 in Portland. These notes prepared by technical writer Pat Vivian.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Bill Hevlin	NOAA
Brad Eppard	COE
Ian Chane	COE
Marvin Shutters	COE
Sean Tackley	COE
Scott Bettin	BPA
Christine Peterson	BPA

Phone:

Charles Morrill	Washington
Shane Scott	PPC
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla